



**ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DISORDERS SUBCOMMITTEE
GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING**

**April 11, 2025 | 9:00 AM
1700 West Washington Street
The Executive Tower, Conference Room 104
Phoenix, Arizona 85007**

A general meeting of the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Subcommittee of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging convened on April 11, 2025, notice duly given.

MEMBERS PRESENT (9)	MEMBERS ABSENT (1)
Brendon Blake, Chair	Bob Roth
Theresa Spitz	
Dr. Keisha Jenkins	
Teresa Manygoats	
DeAnnah Byrd	
Lisa Pollock	
Teresa Malak Salama	
Maria Kirley	
Tory Roberg	
STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT (3)	
Belinda Ray, GOYFF	Chantel Hutchinson, GOYFF
Ann Carver, GOYFF	

CALL TO ORDER

- **Brendon Blake, Chair**, called the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Subcommittee of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA) meeting to order at **9:03 AM** with **nine** members and **three** staff present.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

- **Brendon Blake, Chair**, welcomed everyone and asked all members to introduce themselves. Members took turns sharing their names and a brief introduction around the room.

ROLL CALL

- **Brendon Blake, Chair**, conducted a roll call and reached a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- With the quorum met, **Brendon Blake, Chair**, requested a review of the **January 10, 2025**, meeting minutes before requesting a motion to approve the meeting minutes as drafted.
 - **Theresa Spitz** moved to approve the meeting minutes as drafted.
 - **Dr. Keisha Jenkins** seconded the motion.
- **Brendon Blake, Chair**, asked for a discussion of the minutes, and no members requested amendments.
- **Brendon Blake, Chair**, called a vote, and at **9:15 AM**, the motion to approve the meeting

minutes as drafted passed with no dissenting votes.

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE VISION

- **Brendon Blake, Chair**, provided an overview of the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Subcommittee's past, present, and future vision. He discussed the plan to collect and use data effectively and integrate it into the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GACA)'s annual report. **Brendon Blake** emphasized the importance of including additional voices to enhance engagement from diverse communities. He believes gathering input from various perspectives will help identify and address gaps in the current approach.
- Members discussed the mission and vision for the future, highlighting the significance of developing a comprehensive written mission statement. They considered various strategies for supporting diverse populations and their families to establish specific objectives outlined in the mission statement. The subcommittee must have a clearly defined purpose for data collection, ensuring the data's intended use is well established. Furthermore, collaborative efforts in data collection are encouraged to minimize duplication and optimize resource utilization.
- **Brendon Blake, Chair**, presented a [spreadsheet](#) related to **Dr. Keisha Jenkins'** work on Alzheimer's research, highlighting that it outlines potential data sources for various categories and specifies the information gathered from each source. This compilation aims to connect all research components and clarify pursued objectives.
- The fire alarm sounded at **9:27 AM**, interrupting the meeting, and the subcommittee members exited the building according to emergency evacuation protocol.
- **Brendon Blake, Chair**, called the meeting back to order at **9:54 AM**. **Eight** members and **three** staff were present; **DeAnnah Byrd** attended virtually but did not return after being notified that the evacuation was over.

REVIEW FINAL LIST OF DATA ELEMENTS

- **Brendon Blake, Chair**, reintroduced the Alzheimer's data sources spreadsheet mentioned above and presented **Dr. Keisha Jenkins'** [Alzheimer's data query](#). This query establishes a baseline, shows demographics, and clarifies relevant information.
- **Tory Roberg** would like to review the information in the spreadsheet. She suggested examining workforce development in the long-term care facility to understand better the challenges faced. Key areas to focus on include training hours, staffing hours, pay, and the differences between rural and urban settings. She concluded her thoughts by inquiring how policy can help address workforce development.
- All members contributed their thoughts on various methods for data collection, emphasizing the importance of recognizing and including specific populations and communities in the process to have a comprehensive approach that aims to ensure representation of diverse voices in data-gathering efforts. The recommended groups to consider were as follows: minority communities, rural and urban communities, Indigenous populations, incarcerated individuals, long-term care residents, vulnerable and special needs adults, those in state hospitals, and individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Members discussed different breakdowns based on locations, available resources, and care settings. The subcommittee is interested in exploring the differences in long-term healthcare at both the patient and facility levels. They aim to gather data to address the following question: How often do individuals with dementia visit the emergency room, and does their residential placement influence the frequency of repeat visits?
- Members discussed the need for a letter to request data from various departments. While a letter is not mandatory, it could help clarify the process and make the request more straightforward.
 - **Teresa Manygoats** mentioned that the [Arizona Department of Health Services \(ADHS\)](#) prefers a formal letter for such requests, as it simplifies their procedures.

- **Dr. Keisha Jenkins** shared that she has gathered information regarding patient service locations and the providers serving those areas through the above sheets. She recommended that the subcommittee maintain its focus on both aspects. Additionally, she will ensure that the subcommittee stays informed about the findings from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \(BRFSS\)](#) survey data.
- **Tory Roberg** discussed the strong correlation between the unhoused population and dementia, as well as the costs associated with care. She also inquired about information regarding incarcerated individuals living with dementia.
 - **Teresa Malak Salama** and **Teresa Manygoats** stated they would research to find available data on this population.
- **Brendon Blake, Chair**, emphasized that the subcommittee serves all Arizonans. Members should acknowledge that collecting data for everyone may not be feasible, but they should strive to include as many individuals as possible.
- Members discussed the possibility of contacting the [Central Arizona Shelter Services \(CASS\)](#) to tour their senior housing community and gather information on their dementia screening programs for older adults.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- **Brendon Blake, Chair**, expressed his gratitude to the new subcommittee members and encouraged everyone to reach out if they know individuals who would be valuable additions. He suggested that forming ad hoc workgroups could help address specific aspects of the subcommittee's work.
- **Brendon Blake, Chair**, mentioned that the subcommittee could invite presenters to meetings to share insights and information. Additionally, he recommended establishing a membership process to ensure that all members clearly understand their status as subcommittee members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Ann Carver** provided information about the [Arizona Senior Center Association \(ASCA\) Networking Summit](#), a dynamic gathering of leaders, advocates, and professionals dedicated to enhancing the lives of Arizona's senior communities. The conference will occur on May 2, 2025, at the [South Mountain Environmental Education Center \(SMEEC\)](#). The GACA members will be presenting an educational information event.
- **Theresa Spitz** announced that June is [Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month](#). The [Alzheimer's Association—Desert Southwest Chapter](#) will hold an awareness campaign called *The Longest Day* on June 21, 2025, the year's longest day. The campaign will raise awareness of Alzheimer's disease and honor caregivers and individuals affected by it.
- **Tory Roberg** shared information about the [Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures](#), an annual report released by the Alzheimer's Association that shares the state's response to Alzheimer's, and a press release on April 29, 2025. Because space is limited, the event is by invitation only.

FUTURE MEETING DATES, TOPICS, AND ADJOURNMENT

- **Brendon Blake, Chair**, discussed potential agenda items for the next meeting, including developing a strategic plan for the subcommittee's mission and vision statement, and outlining how to achieve these goals with data.
- **Brendon Blake, Chair**, announced that the next meeting will be on May 30, 2025.

ADJOURN

- **Brendon Blake, Chair**, thanked everyone for being part of the meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn.
 - **Tory Roberg** moved to adjourn the meeting.

- o **Theresa Spitz** seconded the motion.
- **Brendon Blake, Chair**, asked if further discussion was needed; no members did.
- **Brendon Blake, Chair**, called for a vote, and at **11:02 AM**, the motion to adjourn the meeting passed with no dissenting votes.

Dated April 14, 2025
Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
Respectfully Submitted By:
Belinda Ray
Governor's Advisory Council on Aging Executive Director, GOYFF

FINAL