

Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging
ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2025
Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging
1625 E. Shaw Ave. Suite #123 Fresno, 93710

- I. **Call to Order:**
 - a. The meeting was called to order by First Vice Chair, Joel Gurss at 1:39 PM. A quorum was established.
 - b. **Advisory Council Members Present:** Joel Gurss, Stefanie Diaz, Minerva Garcia, Jan Clagg, Tonya Frost, Angela Stillwell, and Mariel Ortiz.
 - c. **Advisory Council Members Not Present:** Anne Bishop, Michael Bishop, Tish Davis, and Michael Mendez, Jr.
 - d. **FMAAA Staff Present:** Miles Robinson
 - e. **Guests Present:** Rebecca Scott and Mario Pena (Alzheimer's Association)
- II. **Welcome and Introductions:**
 - a. First Vice Chair Joel Gurss welcomed all in attendance and all members, and guests shared their name, title, and organization represented.
- III. **Public Comment:** No Report
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** First Vice Chair, Joel Gurss asked for a motion to approve the **June 10, 2025** Advisory Council meeting minutes. The motion was made by Stefanie Diaz and seconded by Tonya Frost. There was a small discussion on a grammatical error on the minutes. The motion carried.
- V. **Old Business:**
 - a. Miles R. provided a summary of outreach events and presentations conducted in June and July, including:
 - a. The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, 2025, the California Department of Aging (CDA) Aging with Pride webinar on June 16, 2025, and the Alzheimer's Association Ask a Neurologist: A Conversation with Dr. Bhatia on June 25, 2025.
 - b. Miles R. also reported on the results of the Election of the 2025-2026 FMAAA Advisory Council Officers: Chair: Mike Bishop, First Vice Chair: Joel Gurss, and Second Vice Chair: Tonya Frost.
- VI. **New Business:**
 - a. Miles R. reported on several events that took place between June 2025 and early September 2025. New Business was divided into two categories: Past Events and Future Events.
 - b. **Past Events:**
 - i. June 25, 2025 – Miles R. attended the Fresno Alzheimer's Association "Ask a Neurologist: A Conversation with Dr. Bhatia."

- ii. July 8, 2025 – Miles R. presented on FMAAA services to the Kiwanis Club
- iii. August 5, 2025 – Miles R. and Hillaree B. met with Evelyn Chavez of Dedicated Care.
- iv. August 6, 2025 – Miles R. attended the August LAFS mtg.
- v. August 8, 2025 – Miles R., with HDM Eligibility Workers Angelina R. and Yesenia G., attended the Masten Towers Summer Social to provide outreach and resources.
- vi. August 11, 2025 – Miles R. met with Fresno County CFHL sister agencies (Healthy Fresno County, Catholic Charities, UC Cooperative Extension) to discuss resources and support as CFHL sunsets.
 - 1. There was a short discussion about the CalFresh Healthy Living (SNAP-Ed) program ending due to federal budget cuts. The program, which provides nutrition and physical education, will sunset on September 30, 2025. Carryover funds are available until June 2026 for AAA to support the wind-down. Other agencies have different end dates.
- vii. August 19, 2025 – Hillaree B., Miles R., Sarah C., and Sarah S. attended the “What is Hospice Care and What is Hospice Fraud?” webinar.
 - 1. Mention of the webinar prompted the group to discuss how hospice fraud activities occur, such as signing up non-eligible individuals or not providing services, which harms both the state and the individual. It was noted that there are now 50 hospice agencies in town, up from 5 in the year 2000.
- viii. August 20, 2025 – Miles R. attended the Madera Alzheimer’s Association “Ask a Neurologist: A Conversation with Dr. Bhatia.”
- ix. August 27, 2025 – Miles R. attended the Housing Resource Fair at the Clovis Senior Center.
- x. September 2, 2025 – Miles R. presented at the Building Better Neighborhoods mtg.
- xi. September 2, 2025 – Hillaree B. attended the Regional Disaster Summit in Tulare.
- xii. September 3, 2025 – Miles R. presented at the September CA State Retirees mtg.
- xiii. September 4, 2025 – Miles R. attended the Community Health System “Health Quest – Caring for the Caregiver” event.

c. Future Events:

- i. September 11, 2025 – Hillaree B. will attend the Continuum of Care mtg. in Madera.
- ii. September 12, 2025 – Better Together Suicide Prevention Conference.
 - 1. Tonya Frost provided information on the event and how to register via Eventbrite by typing in the name of the event.
- iii. September 12, 2025 – Miles R. will attend the Sierra Senior Center Resource Fair in Oakhurst.

- iv. September 16, 2025 – Jamie S. and Hillaree B. will attend the Central California Women’s Conference at the Fresno Convention Center.
- v. September 19, 2025 – Miles R. will attend the Legacy Commons Harvest Health Fair.
- vi. September 20, 2025 – Miles R. and FMAAA Advisory Council member Minerva Garcia will attend the City & County of Fresno Emergency Preparedness Safety Fair.
- vii. September 27, 2025 – Nutrition Manager Sarah S. and Information & Assistance Specialist Yecica E. will attend the Malaga Recreation Center Resource Fair.
- viii. October 1, 2025 – Miles R. will attend the October LAFS mtg.
- ix. October 4, 2025 – Miles R. and FMAAA staff will attend the Older Adult Health & Resource Fair.
- x. October 6, 2025 – Miles R., Gisela G., Celina M., Angelina R., and Yesenia G. will attend the Big Fresno Fair Senior Day.
- xi. October 9, 2025 – FMAAA directors and managers will attend the CCLS “Together for Justice” fundraiser.

VII. Reports:

a. Advisory Council Chair Report:

- i. This report was made by First Vice Chair, Joel Gurs.

ii. Advisory Council Membership Status:

- 1. Current Vacancies: 2 Fresno County, 6 Madera County, and 2 City of Fresno.
- 2. The Advisory Council has significant vacancies. Efforts to recruit from Madera have been challenging despite offering mileage reimbursement. One candidate from Madera, Nikki Gallagher, is in the process of joining but has not completed her background check.
- 3. **Membership Criteria:** 50% of the Advisory Council members must be aged 60 and older. Joint Powers of Authority (JPA) representation needed from each service area (City of Fresno, City of Madera County, and Fresno County).

iii. Brief Announcements of Upcoming Events

- 1. Mario Pena informed the group of the upcoming Fresno/Madera Alzheimer’s Association Walk on October 18, 2025.
- 2. Tonya Frost mentioned that she created a Local Advocates for Seniors (LAFS) team for the Alzheimer’s Association Walk on October 18, 2025.

b. Committee Updates and Reports:

i. Food and Resource Insecurity Report:

- 1. Committee Chair, Angela Stillwell reported that the committee continues to meet monthly and has updated the food resource spreadsheet to include rural areas, with plans to make it printer-

friendly and available on the Agency's website. The committee discussed the sufficiency of food distribution boxes, noting that many require additional ingredients and that intake procedures and food availability vary by site. The Fresno City Center food distribution site on Dakota was highlighted as a model allowing individuals to choose their own items, though demand is high and people often line up a day in advance for tickets.

ii. Housing Insecurity Committee Report:

1. Tonya Frost gave a brief report in place of Committee Chair Anne Bishop, who was not in attendance. The committee is working to update its resource list after discovering incorrect phone numbers. There was some confusion around meeting schedules, which caused one member to miss a meeting.

c. Governing Board Meeting:

- i. The Governing Board now meets on the second Wednesday of each month. There was no report as the FMAAA Governing Board did not meet in July or August.

d. California Senior Legislative Report:

- i. CSL Representative Minerva Garcia reported on legislative proposals impacting seniors. Key proposals include increasing the Personal Needs Allowance from \$35 to \$50 and establishing a Grandparents' Caregiver Support Program. She noted that the deadline for bills is September 12, 2025 and that the group continues to face challenges in moving proposals forward, emphasizing the need for stronger representation in the Senate and Assembly.

e. Triple-A Council of California (TACC) Report:

- i. Tonya Frost reported that she will attend the TACC Conference in Orange County on November 5–7. She highlighted affordable senior housing models in San Francisco and Los Angeles, where investors have created units priced at \$500–\$600 per month, noting that similar efforts are needed in Fresno and Madera.

VIII. Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging Administrative Update:

- a. Miles R. gave the following updates:
 - i. Miles reported on FMAAA's 2024-2025 Impact Numbers:
 1. Meals Served in C1 and C2: 587,194
 2. Unduplicated Clients Served: 55,486
 3. Info and Assistance, Website hits, Resource events, Radio stations, Client services in all funding streams, Food, etc.
 - ii. Referrals: 16,797

1. Website (hits, calls and views), Info and Assistance (3E and 3B), Community Outreach, Public Information, Caregiver Information Services
 - iii. Title IIIB Direct Client Service Funding: \$747,574.67
 1. Title IIIB Unduplicated Client: 791
 2. Title IIIB Funding: OAA (\$139,465), ARPA (\$272,070), OCAM (\$292,492), OARR (\$43,545)
 - b. FMAAA is working to open Parlier, Del Rey, and Oasis Day Center as congregate nutrition sites.
- IX. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm. The motion was made by Minerva Garcia and seconded by Jan Clagg. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Miles Robinson

Miles Robinson
Administrative Manager
Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging