

Minutes

Regional Council on Aging - Victor Valley

January 13, 2026

This meeting is being recorded and will be conducted pursuant to the provisions in the governor's executive order N-25-20 dated March 17, 2020, which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

A. Call to order by Chair Mayra Williams at 9:37 a.m.

B. Introductions by Chair Mayra Williams:

2026 BOARD MEMBERS

<u>P</u> Chair, Mayra Williams	<u>P</u> Vice-Chair, Teresa Brenner
<u>P</u> Treasurer, Dharini Dobbins	<u>P</u> SAC Rep, Ed Larkin
<u>P</u> Secretary, Shannon Jones	

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

A 1st District Supervisor: Representative, **Christopher Porter**
P DAAS: Senior Information & Assistance Rep, **Karen Costeines**
P APS: Supervising Social Services Practitioner,

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES

A Victor Valley Community Service Council (VVCSC): **Maxine DiDonato**
A A Greater Hope: **Ilyana Ortiz**
P Inland Caregivers (ICRC): **Jaritza Mendoza**
P Barstow Senior Community Center: **Beth Torrez**
P Rolling Start: **JoAnn Wilkes**

Guest Speaker

P Merissa's Table Food Pantry: **Merissa Summers**

GUESTS

<u>P</u> ^l Sharon Cobb	<u>P</u> Valerie	-
<u>P</u> Lisa Gonzalez- VNA Care	--	-
	• I could not hear the recording and did not receive a sign in sheet so attendees are not accurate.	-
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C. Minutes Review:

- a. Minutes for December are tabled until next month.
 - 1. Motion to table- Teresa Brenner, Lisa Gonzalez seconds.

D. Reports:

- 1. Chair Report by Chair Mayra Williams:
 - a. Please make sure to go to our website www.rcavv.org to sign in to today's meeting.
 - b. Mayra has made a list of food pantries around our community. We can distribute this list ASAP.
 - 1. Call ahead and check before you go. Some are tentative dates/times.
 - 2. Locations for USDA sites change every month. Other places are prepared food locations where you can go have a hot meal (listed on RCA website).
- 2. Treasurer's Report by Dharini Dobbins:
 - a. Current balance is \$1,325 – no transactions
- 3. SAC Report by Ed Larkin:
 - a. SAC was having their odd year elections in December/November. No other report.
- 4. DAAS SIA Report- Karen Costeines
 - a. CAPSBC.org for USDA food distribution throughout the county. Congregate meal sites for senior lunches, 60+. Meals on wheels, food distribution.
 - b. Moms Meals, Medical supported. 65+ w/ a home delivery fee of \$15.95. Frozen meals.
 - c. Disaster relief programs for those affected by the recent storms, check the San Bernardino County website.

E. Guest Speaker: Merissa Summers- Food Pantry

1. Free food pantry, w/ refrigerated items at her home. Anyone in need may come, not just seniors.
2. Completely donation based and community driven.
3. Open daily 9am-7pm, 13744 Choco Rd. Apple Valley.
4. Caregivers are welcome to come on behalf of others.
5. Goal is to become a 501C
6. Follow our journey, see daily updates on food available, etc. You can find her on Facebook (Merissa Summers) and Tik Tok (Merissa's table). No phone number at this time.
7. Any prepared meals that are donated do go fast; Merissa creates a video as soon as it's received and it usually gets picked up quickly. She will dispose of any expired/moldy food.
8. You don't need to inform her when you come, you can take what you need and leave. Bring your own bags.
9. To leave a donation, they are accepted 24/7. Please leave them in the "new donations" box unless they need to go in the fridge then please put them straight in there.

F. Announcements:

1. The RCA has a few positions open for our board. We need a new secretary and in June we will have an opening for Vice Chair as well.
2. RCA will look at Teams or Zoom to do transcripts going forward. We will also need a Zoom account for the RCA to use going forward.
3. The County Transitional Assistance Department is doing free taxes for qualifying individuals. Please see the brochures in the DAAS office.
4. Transportation passes are still available at DAAS Victorville office.
5. Certified Farmer's Market coupon program has not started for 2026 yet. Expected June/July. It is a state funded program and we won't know until we hear from them. Used for fresh produce, honey, other qualifying foods.

6. AARP is doing taxes at the Barstow Senior Center on 2/16 and 3/16 from 9am-noon.

G. Adjournment:

1. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40a.m. by Mayra Williams.

The next RCA meeting will be on Tuesday February 17, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.