



## ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

(of) December 1, 2014

Café 225

Visalia, CA 93277

11:30 a.m.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marlene Chambers  
Sharon DeMasters  
Mary Krieg-Vasquez  
Sharon Lamagno  
Kyle Melton  
Grace Schraa  
Cheri Taylor  
Maggie Woodhouse  
Don Turner  
Hal Hunter, Council Alternate

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Laura Silva, K/T AAA Director  
Brooke Sisk, Administrative Specialist  
Bonnie Quiroz, Elder Advocate  
Marla Phillips, Staff Analyst  
Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Beckie Cortez  
Fern Haller m  
Dick Johnson  
Suzann Wray  
Sue Mudge

### **GUESTS & ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Albert Cendejas, CSET  
Lily Yan, Central CA Legal Services  
Marsha Calhoun, Kings Co, Pub. Authority  
Patricia Castro-Ridenour, RSVP  
Barbara Melton  
Ms. Hal Hunter  
Jim Flood

1. **Call to Order** – Sharon DeMasters, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Ms. DeMasters requested that everyone introduce him or herself and explain what organization he or she is affiliated with.
2. **Public Comments**
  - Ms. DeMasters reported that the Kings/Tulare lost one of its long-term Ombudsman, Peggy Van Sant, who recently passed away. She had served as an Ombudsman in Visalia for 17 years.
  - Ms. DeMasters announced an Ombudsman training on December 9-10, 2014. Those interested to volunteer in that capacity can contact her.
  - Laura Silva, K/T AAA Director, said K/T AAA is working on a Holiday Stocking drive for home-bound seniors in Tulare County, especially those in the Home-Bound Meals Program. This year the effort has expanded and the agency is partnering with Adult Protective Services and Public Guardian to reach Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) clients. Last year over 200 stockings were delivered; this year, the goal is 600. Donations are being received from County employees and community organizations. K/T AAA has enlisted the help of “Santa Claus” this year to help with some of the deliveries.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Don Turner motioned for the minutes of July 21, 2014, and October 20, 2014 (Lindsay) meetings to be accepted. Cheri Taylor seconded the motion. The minutes were approved, with Marlene Chambers abstaining.

4. **Announcements and Correspondence** – None

5. **Milestone Updates** – Bonnie Quiroz, K/T AAA Tulare County Elder and Dependent Adult Family Advocate said she had spoken to Council member, Beckie Cortez, who sends her, “Hello,” to everyone. Ms. Cortez is scheduled to have surgery soon. It was also noted that Ms. Cortez has arranged for a large donation of raisins for the Holiday Stocking campaign.

In connection with this, Ms. Silva said, there is an opportunity for the Council to reach out to several former Council members, including Stella Ybarra, Mae Brixey, and Carla Treuting, some of whom will be receiving a Holiday stocking from K/T AAA.

6. **Council Membership** – Kyle Melton, Membership Committee Chair explained that the Bylaws allow a person to either live or work in the County represented. Don Turner has worked in, and represented, Kings County for many years. His recent retirement disqualifies him from continuing to represent Kings County as a Council member. Mr. Turner will be resigning from his Kings County position, (Seat #9,) and will consequently be recommended for appointment to currently vacant Tulare County Seat #1. Sharon Lamagno motioned to recommend Mr. Turner for a Tulare County appointment, Marlene Chambers seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Additionally, the new Public Authority in Kings County, Marsha Calhoun, will be recommended for appointment to Seat #9, the Kings County seat vacated by Mr. Turner.

On a separate issue, it was stated that Council member Becky Cortez (Seat #5) has been unable to fulfill her attendance and participation obligation to the Council. Per the Bylaws authority, the Council voted to declare Seat # 5 as vacated.

7. **Comments on C4A Meeting** – Council Member, Cheri Taylor, reported that a theme of the C4A conference was how to broaden concepts of how community can pull together to meet unmet needs for seniors, versus solely relying on government agencies - especially in light of the fact that the senior population will grow dramatically in the next 25 years.

Albert Cendejas reported that he had the opportunity to attend several classes at the C4A conference – on Elder Abuse and Suicide Prevention – classes that were, “eye opening,” and had great information that he was able to bring back to the senior centers and share with Information and Assistance staff. Especially, he mentioned getting “Question, Persuade, Refer” (QPR) certification training for staff. In relation to this, Don Turner said one of the top CSL bills being considered is *Death with Dignity* legislation. Ms. Silva said this is a topic that needs to be considered by the Suicide Prevention Task Force and Ms. Silva will work with Mr. Cendejas on getting needed information.

8. **California Senior Legislature (CSL) Report** – (*Don Turner/Sharon Lamagno*) Mr. Turner said that at its fall meeting, the CSL had over 100 bills to review in consideration for its support. The CSL body breaks into committees (his assignment is the Social Services and Community Committee and Ms. Lamagno is assigned to Insurance and Finance). At the end of the session, each committee votes on its top ten issues.

9. **Additional Member Comments** – None

10. **Speaker Tiffany Nielson Topic: “Oh, Behave!”** – Ms. Silva introduced the speaker, Ms. Nielson, who is CEO of Premier Etiquette, and who recently has presented at a Tulare

County all-staff training. Ms. Silva said Ms. Nielson is innovative in her ideas of enhancing professional image and in creative ways to handle situations, as well as in the fundamentals of civility, especially as it is experienced across age boundaries.

11. **Adjourn** – Session ended 11:25 a.m.

**NEXT:**

**Governing Board Meeting**

**January 26, 2015**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Tulare County Board of Supervisors**

**Conference Rooms A/B**

**2800 W. Burrel**

**Visalia, CA 93291**

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