 ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

(of) November 14, 2016

Noble Plaza

4025 W. Noble Ave, Suite A

Visalia, CA 93277

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. David Wood

Marsha Calhoun

Marlene Chambers

Elizabeth Holliday m

Alicia Garcia

Suzann Wray

Maggie Woodhouse

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Christine Tidwell

Bonnie Quiroz

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mary Krieg-Vasquez

Benjamin Cordova

Sharon Lamagno

Grace Shraa

Bobbie Wartson

**GUESTS & ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Albert Cendejas, CSET

Steve Nelsen, Mayor, City of Visalia

Esperanza Hansen

Aime Rojas, Member Candidate

1. **Call to Order** – Dr. David Wood, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. He explained he would be moving as quickly as possible through the agenda in order to have time to complete the Ethics training that was planned for morning. He noted the meeting is recorded for accurate minutes, but that the audio is not kept beyond that purpose.

**2. Introductions –** Introductions were given by Council members, staff, and guest attendees. Dr. Wood noted that there is a quorum present.

3. **Public Comments** – No public comments.

4. **Approval of Minutes** – Marlene Chambers motioned to accept the minutes of September 26, 2016. Suzann Wray seconded the motion and the minutes were approved, unanimously. (\*Notes from the October Council meeting at the Avenal Senior center were available for review and circulated for informational purposes, but due to not having a quorum at that meeting, these were distributed as meeting notes rather than official minutes.)

5. **Announcements and Correspondence** – Dr. Wood announced an Elder Law Seminar sponsored by Valley Caregiver Resource Center at the Visalia CSET main office from 2 to 4 p.m. on December 7, 2016. The guest speaker will be Jennifer Mele, Special Projects Attorney for Central California Legal Services, Inc.

On May 11, 2017, there will be a Senior Rally Day at the California State Capitol building in Sacramento to bring attention to senior issues. More information will be available on that event as the date becomes closer.

Dr. Wood circulated an article focused on the dramatic growth in the elderly population and the demands that growth will bring with it, which will include the demands for the intersection of mental health and aging services.

Albert Cendejas circulated a flyer from KCAO in Kings County regarding a free mobile vision clinic in Dinuba and in Avenal.

6. **Milestone Updates** – Dr. Wood announced that he had been officially sworn in as a Senior Senator with the California Senior Legislature (CSL). He noted that the CSL recognized Don Turner during its formal combined session of the Assembly and the Senate. He was highly valued for his participation in the CSL. Sharon Lamagno (Assembly) was unable to attend the meetings due to a family emergency. She also was recognized for her 10 years of service with the CSL organization.

Dr. Wood also noted that Council member; Alicia Garcia has volunteered to go to the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) meetings in Los Angeles.

There was also mention of the TACC Council of California which will need a representative from the K/T AAA to be involved.

It was also noted that the CSL suggested recognizing May 10, the anniversary of the Inter-Continental Railway, as a day of recognition for Chinese laborers. That idea did not become part of the group of resolutions sponsored for California (CSL), but it is still something that will be forwarded to the Federal government for recognition.

Suzann Wray said that there was an obituary notice for Fern Haller in the newspaper. Although not a current member of the Council, Ms. Haller had been a long-time Council member with the K/T AAA. A message of condolence will be sent to Ms. Haller’s family for their loss and in appreciation for the contributions Ms. Haller gave to the community through her participation on the Council.

7. **Membership Committee** – Membership Chair, Kyle Melton noted that the Council had a series of vacancies in rapid succession, but he now is getting perspective candidates who have applied for those empty seats. He said that candidate Steve Nelsen has attended several Council meetings over the last several months and after commenting on Mr. Nelson’s qualifications, he put his name forward for consideration of appointment. Additionally, he recommended Aime Rojas, a hospice specialist, who has also submitted her Council application. The candidates were asked to step into the hall during the vote and discussion. Marsha Calhoun asked about the employment of the candidates because she said that recently in dealing with Public Authority and Kings County it had come to her attention that there are rules about individuals working in long-term care facilities with a possible conflict of interest as far as the Federal Regulations are concerned and participation on certain types of Boards and Councils. She noted that the Council needs to be in compliance with those restrictions. Ms. Calhoun will be sending the written regulations to Mr. Melton for further review, and to ensure that in the future the Council can verify that it acts in accordance with correct legal provisions. It was decided that both applications could be accepted and that it was unnecessary to put the decision to County Council for a decision.

Dr. Wood also mentioned that Steve Nelsen is Mayor elect for the City of Visalia and he would expect that each and every one of the Council members understands when he or she is placed in a potential position of conflict of interest. He noted that with the County Mental Health Board, County employees and Peer Support Specialists who were consumers who have been or are employed by the County have now been authorized by California to participate on the Mental Health Board. That would potentially be more of a conflict, but if at any point there is a conflict of interest, that person should excuse him or herself without a vote.

Dr. Wood entertained a motion for approval of the application of Mr. Nelson. Mr. Melton moved to accept Mr. Nelson’s application; Suzann Wray seconded the motion, which was approved without objection. Mr. Nelson’s name will be forwarded to the Governing Board for approval. Dr. Wood entertained a motion for approval of the application for Ms. Rojas. Mr. Melton moved to accept Mr. Rojas application, which was seconded by Ms. Wray.

Dr. Wood said that given the concerns that were mentioned earlier, we can ask County Counsel to double check that hospice is not the same as a long-term care facility. Ms. Rojas’ name will also be forwarded to the Governing Board in consideration of appointment.

It was noted that these are both Governing Board-appointed seats, so they will be appointed at the next Board meeting in January 2017; the appointments will not be made by the County Board of Supervisors.

8. **CA Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A)** – The C4A 2016 Annual meeting and Allied Conference is taking place in Los Angeles November 15 – 17, 2016. Council member, Alicia Garcia, will be attending on behalf of the K/T AAA Advisory Council and will report out information at a later date to the Council. It was noted that several K/T AAA staff are also attending.

9. **California Senior Legislature (CLS)** – Dr. Wood said it is important that the K/T AAA (PSA 15) to be represented at the various “aging” organizations such as the C4A and the CSL meetings. He said this participation is how to leverage concerns into actual community action.

10. **Tule River Indian Reservation Elder Council** – Dr. Wood reported that the Tule River Reservation is represented on the Tulare County Mental Health Board. In conjunction with that affiliation, the Board did a site visit recently on the reservation. At that time, there were also discussions about interest in their senior citizen population and aging in the Native American community, including their Elder Council, which has a long and historic tradition of inclusiveness and respect for elders. He noted that he sent a message to the Chair representative of that Elder Council asking to meet with their group. This is a first step of an unfolding process, with the idea to become broadly inclusive including the Native American population of the County.

11. **Additional Organizational Affiliations** –Dr. Wood mentioned the organizationTACC - Triple-A Council of California. He encouraged Council members to look at the information on’-line and decide if it is something that would interest them individually to become involved in possibly be the K/T AAA representative to that organization. The upcoming meetings are December 6-7, 2016 in Sacramento.

12. **Staff Reports** – Christine Tidwell said that the December Council meeting usually meets at a local restaurant. A date has not been set for that, but notification will be sent out to determine the best date for everyone to attend. Dr. Wood also said that he expressed his personal preference to not receive any recognition gift items (such as coffee mugs, small presents, party favors, etc.), but that he would leave that decision to the Council. He also said that this year he is requesting that former Council members are also invited to the event as a way to honor their contributions.

13. **Additional Member Comments** – Dr. Wood commented that the Council looks to be on the threshold of a fully staffed Advisory Council – which is step one in the long term plan. Step two being the Council becomes fully credited in terms of its Ethics training. Step three will be the completion of a reference binder for each Council member, which will contain important Council documents such as the Bylaws and related documents to the operation of the Council, as well as a place to keep the meeting minutes, etc. He said, ideally, in January, with the new year, the Council will hold a retreat, figure out how to move forward and what focus to take, what the council’s resources are in terms of political connections, and how to move forward as representatives of the community.

14. **Adjourn –** Meeting ended 11:09 a.m.