 ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

(of) December 12, 2016

Café 225

Visalia, CA 93291

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marsha Calhoun

Marlene Chambers

Benjamin Cordova

Alicia Garcia m

Elizabeth Holliday

Kyle Melton

Grace Schraa

Bobbie Wartson

Suzann Wray

David Wood

Maggie Woodhouse

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mary Krieg-Vasquez

Sharon Lamagno

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Laura Silva, Director

Bonnie Quiroz, Client Advocate

Matthew Kredit, Administrative Specialist

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

Nancy Aldaoud, Administrative Aide

**GUESTS & ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Albert Cendejas, CSET

Jesse Garcia, Guest

Jack Draxler, Former Council Member

Aime Rojas, Member Candidate

Barbara Melton, Guest

Dick Johnson, Former Council Member

Hal Hunter, Council Alternate

1. **Call to Order** – Dr. David Wood, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.
2. **Introductions of Guests, Staff, and Council Members** – Introductions were given by Council members, staff, and guest attendees. Dr. Wood and Laura Silva welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.
3. **Public Comments** – There were no public comments.
4. **Discussion and Approval of Minutes**

* Ben Cordova requested more information regarding the upcoming Senior Day Rally on May11, 2017, in Sacramento. Dr. Wood will provide follow up information via email and also said as he knows more, he will update the Council as the event comes closer. Dr. Wood suggested that transportation of some sort, such as carpooling, could be arranged for those wishing to attend. Additionally, he said that K/T AAA (PSA 15) should want to be known as an active and involved PSA.
* In connection to Dr. Wood’s information regarding connections to the Tule River Reservation’s Elder Council through his work with the Tulare County Mental Health Board, Mr. Cordova asked if there had been any attempt to also contact the Tachi Tribe Elder Council. Dr. Wood commented that such a connection has not been made at this point and that these collaborations are just now evolving. He noted that currently there is a representative from the Tule River Tribe on the Mental Health Board.
* In clarification of a question that came up as to if a Council member has taken the required Ethics Training in connection to his or her affiliation with another organization, it was noted that, it will suffice for the Council’s records, as long as it is current and within the two-year criteria. (Ethics training is required every 2 years). It was also mentioned that coming with the new year, as required each year, the Form 700, Financial Conflict of Interest will also need to be on record.

Marlene Chambers motioned to accept the minutes of November 14, 2016; Kyle Melton seconded the motion and the minutes were approved, unanimously.

1. **Announcements and Correspondence**

* Dr. Wood noted that this last year has been one of transitions and has presented significant challenges with illness and event deaths, for a number of Council members and staff. He said thoughts and well-wishes go out to those members of the group and family members dealing with difficult situations. He noted that the Council is now up to a nearly full complement of members (once the Governing Board appoints the current candidates). He said he appreciates the new members and those continuing in their service on the Council.
* Regarding the upcoming Council Retreat, staff will be sending out a poll to find out the most opportune date for the members.
* Dr. Wood circulated two petitions coming out of the California Senior Legislature (CSL). The first, requests the State Legislature and Governor to honor the Chinese railroad workers by designating a day of recognition, which will acknowledge the work and contributions of the Chinese laborers on the Transcontinental Railway. The day of recognition will be the Golden Spike Day. Dr. Wood will forward the signed petition back to the CSL. The second item, also from the CSL, is a request that anyone so inclined will forward as an individual letter a request to the Governor and State administration in reference to the Budget preparation that an increase be made in the Personal Needs Allowance for Medi-Cal nursing home residents. Currently, there is a cap of $35/month. The request asks for the amount to be increased to $80/month. Dr. Wood circulated a copy of the draft letter, which he will email to members, so it can be used as a template.
* Dr. Wood said that it was agreed by the Council that it would begin having regular monthly meeting (instead of quarterly). Further information will be coming out to the Council members about preferred dates for those monthly meetings. This will help to set up a regular meeting schedule for the year.
* Dr. Wood said that as the Council moves forward it will be working on its own committees within the group in addition to participation in groups such as C4A, CSL, and other organizations working with Area Agencies on Aging. This will help Council members to become more involved regionally and at the State level.
* Lastly, Dr. Wood noted that transportation is a big issue for seniors throughout the state. In connection to this there will be a meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 in Visalia, at the Tulare County Ag Commissioner’s auditorium about grant applications. He will be attending. He also provided an informational handout to anyone else that wishes to attend. Additionally, he distributed copies of “*Seniors and the Law*” a guide of legal information, especially as it pertains to seniors, created by the California Bar Association.
* Laura Silva, K/T AAA Director said she would like to take this opportunity to speak about this year’s *Stockings for Seniors* drive. She noted that it was tremendously successful this year, especially in securing generous donations from the community. Both individual and corporate donations increased this year. She emphasize the real purpose of the project is to reach the isolated and home-bound seniors in the community and to make connections to them. She said if Council members would like to partner with staff to help in the delivery of the stockings, it can be coordinated. This year 383 seniors were served. Participants included those from the MSSP program, Home-Delivered Meal Program, Adult Protective Services, and also included past members of the Advisory Council. She noted that Kings County has its own programs, so this generally targets seniors in the Tulare County. Ms. Silva said that in the process of this drive she had made an important connection with the Visalia Police Department to help a homeless senior, which in turn, helped to get the word out to the Visalia PD about the services K/T AAA has available to seniors. She noted that through this process relationships have been built with local hotels, that contribute various toiletry items, etc. It was also noted that Dr. Wood had received a sizeable donation of toothbrushes and toothpaste from his dentists! In addition, Costco, Family Health Care Network, Walmart, Eagle Mountain Casino, and many private individuals contributed to the cause. She said this project well complements Senior Day in the Park by serving the home-bound population.

1. **Milestone Updates** – No milestone updates reported.
2. **CWDA and C4A Conferences**

* Albert Cendejas, the Senior Program Coordinator for CSET and Bonnie Quiroz, the Tulare County Senior Advocate gave brief updates on their participation at the County Welfare Directors Association of CA (CWDA) and the CA Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) recent meeting and what some of the other California Counties are doing to help the seniors, including ideas on how to maximize Senior Farmers Market Coupons that are available each year through the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Also discussed: fraud issues related to Medicare and adult abuse (prevention), especially in rural areas.

Council member Alicia Garcia also attended the C4A conference and reported out on information that she gleaned from her participation, especially in regard to helping solve the poverty level designation, which the rate has not been raised in years. It was noted that there are 20 million seniors living in poverty.

* Matthew spoke about the raise in the minimum wage and the potential effect that it may have on the staff working at the Senior Centers and the costs associated with maintaining the Senior Centers and the intricacies of how funding is distributed including how it relates to various wage issues.

1. **January Retreat** – Laura Silva, Director, said she is working on the time and possible locations in an effort to move forward with the retreat.
2. **Staff Reports** – Ms. Silva thanked Dr. Wood for stepping into the position of the Council Chair on short notice when it was critical that the Chairmanship position be filled, and for his willingness to provide representation on the CSL. She said that because of the initiative he exhibited, he has really championed the causes of the Council and she very much appreciates it, and that it is creating a strong momentum for the Council’s purpose.

In closing, Ms. Silva said she wanted to remember the contributions of Council members, Don Turner and Fern Haller, both of whom had strong dedication to senior causes. She said the Council will miss them and suffered a great loss in losing them, but that their legacy of hard work on behalf of the seniors will remain.

10. **Additional Member Comments** – Former Council member Dick Johnson related a story of when he traveled to Corcoran with K/T AAA staff and how much fun he had being part of the Council. He continues to serve the K/T AAA as a HICAP counselor.

Dr. Wood mentioned that he was up for re-appointment to the Council at the Tulare County Board of Supervisors meeting on December 13, 2017. He said he will be making an annual report to the Governing Board of the K/T AAA.

11. **Adjourn –** Meeting ended 12:42 p.m.