



## ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 27, 2014

Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Conference Rooms A/B

2800 West Burrel

Visalia, CA 93291

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marlene Chambers  
Sharon DeMasters  
Fern Haller  
Dick Johnson  
Mary Krieg-Vasquez  
Kyle Melton  
Susan Mudge  
Cheri Taylor

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Beckie Cortez  
Sharon Lamagno  
Grace Schraa  
Maggie Woodhouse

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Laura Silva, K/T AAA Director m  
Brooke Sisk, Staff Analyst  
Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide  
Dori Silveria, HICAP Program Manager  
Ashli Austerman-Cole, HICAP  
Volunteer Coordinator

### **GUESTS & ALTERNATES PRESENTS:**

Mary Alice Escarsega, Exec. Dir, C-SET  
Albert Cendajas, Program Coordinator  
Hal Hunter, Alternate for Don Turner  
William Munoz

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1. **Call to Order** – Sharon DeMasters, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.
  2. **Public Comments**
    - Dori Silveria, the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) Manager introduced Ashli Austerman-Cole, the new HICAP Volunteer Coordinator. HICAP is in the midst of a recruiting campaign to find new counselors. The program hopes to recruit retired professionals to become HICAP Counselors. Selected persons will receive forty hours of training in February, along with a ten-hour internship to be completed later.  
  
Council member Dick Johnson, who currently serves as a HICAP counselor, commented that he gets great satisfaction from being able to help seniors in this way and that it is a wonderful program and team.
    - William Munoz, representative from the office of Assemblyman Rudy Salas announced a senior Scam Stopper Workshop that will be held in Lemoore on Friday, February 28, 2014 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Lemoore Veterans Memorial Building, 411 West “D” Street, Lemoore, CA 93245.
  3. **Approval of Minutes** – Marlene Chambers motioned to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2013, meeting, as presented. Kyle Melton seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

4. **Announcements and Correspondence** – No Announcements Reported.
5. **Milestone Updates** – Marlene Chambers and Mary Krieg-Vasquez reported on former Council members Stella Ybarra and Mae Brixey.
6. **New Membership Recommendation** – Kyle Melton, Membership Chair congratulated Sue Mudge for her appointment to the Council earlier that morning during the K/T AAA Governing Board meeting. Additionally, he noted Suzann Wray had applied for membership to the Council. Ms. Wray is a former Council member and a current alternate member. Previously, she expressed her wish to again be appointed to a Council seat if one became available. Mr. Melton motioned that her name be forwarded to the Tulare County Board of Supervisors for consideration of appointment to one of the vacant Tulare County seats. Cheri Taylor seconded the motion and the Council voted unanimously in favor.
7. **Update on K/T AAA Funding** – Laura Silva, K/T AAA Director reported that on January 15, 2014, Congressional approval of a final spending bill authorized CDA grants would be funded for the entirety of the fiscal year, with no additional sequestration cuts.
8. **California Senior Legislature (CSL)** – Current terms for the CSL end in 2014. The election process will take place later this year. Additionally, the incumbent CSL Senator, Carla Treuting, resigned as of the end of December, 2013. Council member Mary Krieg-Vasquez said she would be interested in participating in the CSL. This item will be included for further discussion at the next meeting.
9. **Report on the Porterville Senior Center Move** – Mary Alice Escarsega-Fechner, C-SET Executive Director reported on the progress of the Porterville Senior Center move. The City and C-SET are working out the details of the upgrades that are needed and which organization will be financially responsible for getting them done. The whole building will be utilized for the seniors and senior activities. The projected internal target date is for a March 3<sup>rd</sup> opening day. An Open House will be organized and announced once the move is complete.

Additionally, it was announced that Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) will be available at the Tulare County senior sites. Sharon DeMasters also announced that KCCOA has also arranged for VITA tax preparation assistance to be available in Kings County at the Armona center. This is a free service to seniors age 60 and over. Marlene Chambers noted that VITA services are also offered at the Lemoore Air base for military families.

10. **Meeting Calendar for 2014** – A tentative meeting schedule was discussed. Further decisions will be made at the next Council meeting regarding the frequency and location of Council meetings. Cheri Taylor motioned that the Council meet in February, Mary Krieg-Vasquez seconded the motion and it was decided by unanimous vote that there should be a February meeting, and that it should be at a senior center. The location and time of the meeting will be arranged.
11. **Committee Appointments** – Several committee member terms have expired and needed to be re-assigned. Kyle Melton, the Committee Chair for the Membership Committee was re-appointed on that committee and will continue as its Chair. Sharon DeMasters, Council Chair, re-appointed Don Turner to the ABC committee. Cheri Taylor volunteered to be on the ABC committee to fill the vacancy left by Betty Oswald.

Additionally, it was discussed that a possible new committee could be one that researched legislation relating to the budget and senior-related items, as well as how to advocate for bills considered favorable. It was suggested that the CSL representatives could participate on such a committee, once it is formed.

**12. Staff Reports**

- Christine Tidwell reminded everyone that a Form 700 – Statement of Economic Interest – is required of each Council member every year. She will follow up at the next meeting with additional information.
- It was announced that *Senior Day in the Park* for 2014 will be on Friday, May 16, 2014.

**13. Additional Member Comments** – No additional comments.

**14. Adjourned** – On a motion from Dick Johnson, seconded by Kyle Melton, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45.

**NEXT:**

**Governing Board Meeting**

**March 17, 2014**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Tulare County Human Resources & Development**

**Front Testing Room**

**2900 W. Burrel**

**Visalia, CA**

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**Advisory Council**

**To Be Announced**

**\*Schedule to be created at the February meeting**