



## ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

July 21, 2014

11:00 a.m.

Professional Development Center

4031 West Noble

Visalia, CA 93277

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sharon DeMasters  
Dick Johnson  
Sharon Lamagno  
Kyle Melton  
Susan Mudge  
Grace Schraa  
Cheri Taylor  
Maggie Woodhouse  
Suzanne Wray  
Hal Hunter, Alternate for Don Turner

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Beckie Cortez  
Fern Haller  
Mary Krieg-Vasquez  
Don Turner  
Marlene Chambers

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

Albert Cendejas, CSET

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Laura Silva, K/T AAA Director  
Brooke Sisk, Administrative Specialist  
Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

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1. **Call to Order** – Sharon DeMasters, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.
  2. **Public Comments**
    - Laura Silva announced that Brooke Sisk the Staff Analyst working with the K/T AAA had received a promotion to Administrative Specialist. Ms. Sisk will continue working with Aging Services and the K/T AAA.
    - Albert Cendejas, CSET Senior Program Coordinator, showed in pictures the changes that have taken place since CSET began the interior and exterior renovations on the Santa Fe Depot building, which now serves as the Porterville Senior Center. Although many seniors were reluctant to make the move to the new location, there has been positive response to the new site. At the previous center on Putnam Avenue an average of 35 to 40 seniors attended daily, with 825 average meals served per month. On March 17, the new site at the Santa Fe Depot opened its doors, with 45 seniors in attendance. On June 30 a Grand Opening was held with approximately 60 seniors participating. Supervisor Ennis and Porterville Mayor Cameron Hamilton attended the event. Several partner agencies participated, as well, including: HICAP representatives, Veterans officers, CalFresh representatives, and the Central California Legal Services (CCLS) team. Post move, CSET has continued to receive positive feedback and response about the site from the seniors and the community. Currently there are approximately 55 to 55 seniors attending the site daily. Special events and dinners have attracted over 100 seniors per event. It was noted that there is a very welcoming atmosphere at the site.

The location allows for more space, including a large multi-purpose room which can be used for a variety of activities. Since the transition, the monthly meal average is 1195 per month, with the addition of 53 new seniors enrolled and attending regularly. Mr. Cendejas noted the project came to fruition through collaboration with many partner agencies, including the K/T AAA Governing Board and Advisory Council, the City of Porterville, and CSET. The center's hours are now 8 a. m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The center is available for outside senior organization and agencies to hold meetings at no charge. This aspect is scheduled through Mr. Donnie Moore at the Porterville Parks and Recreation.

Additionally, it was reported that the Lindsay Senior Center is now open 5 days per week. Mr. Cendejas said that as the program grows, there will be additional consideration to extend the hours at other sites as well in order to accommodate seniors who wish to attend. As the public begins to know the sites are there and want to come on a daily basis, expansions will continue.

Ms. DeMasters said she has distributed a Save-the-Date flyer for the Kings County Senior Day in Burris Park. More information will follow as September 12<sup>th</sup> draws closer. If any Council member would like to volunteer to help with event registration it will be appreciated. She noted that Mr. Cendejas has volunteered to help with the set up. More outreach will follow.

Ms. DeMasters announced that the Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA) began a new program July 1, 2014, using Seniors Access for Engagement (SAFE), Behavioral Health funds. KCCOA received permission to use certain grant money for a community garden project to help provide fresh vegetables to seniors that may otherwise not have access to them. This project is aimed to help to mitigate "food desert" areas. Focus will be on homebound seniors, but the project will also provide to the senior centers. Part of the effort will also be to re-connect with packing houses, which often donate fruit for distribution. KCCOA will act as a pass through for the contributed produce.

3. **Approval of Minutes** – Dick Johnson motioned to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2014, meeting. Maggie Woodhouse seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously with no abstentions.
4. **Announcements and Correspondence** – Cheri Taylor announced a Masquerade Ball on August 23, 2014, from 7 – 11 p.m. There will be live music and a silent auction. Event proceeds will go to Porterville Adult Day Services.
5. **Milestone Updates** - None
6. **Staff Reports** – At the request of Don Turner, California Senior Legislature (CSL) Senator, Christine Tidwell distributed information on the bills being considered by the CSL, along with information on the bill's status.

7. **Additional Member Comments** – Dick Johnson asked about the status of Council member Beckie Cortez, due to her continued absence from meetings. It was noted that a letter has been prepared for review by the Membership Committee in order to find out if she is still interested in remaining on the Council.
8. **Meeting Adjourned**

**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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**Advisory Council**

**December 1, 2014 (Tentative)**

**Location to be determined**