



ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

(of) May 18, 2015
Tulare County Board of Supervisors
Conference Rooms A/B
2800 W. Burrel
Visalia, CA 93291
10:45 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marlene Chambers
Sharon DeMasters
Marsha Calhoun
Kyle Melton
Grace Schraa
Maggie Woodhouse
Suzann Wray
Mary Krieg-Vasquez

STAFF PRESENT:

Laura Silva, K/T AAA Director
Brooke Sisk, Administrative Specialist
Ashli Austerman-Cole, Administrative Aide
Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Fern Haller
Dick Johnson
Sharon Lamagno
Cheri Taylor
Don Turner

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GUESTS & ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Albert Cendejas, CSET
Dr. David Wood, Member Candidate
Ben Cordova, Member Candidate
Mary Alice Escarsega-Fechner, CSET

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1. **Call to Order** – Sharon DeMasters, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.
 2. **Public Comments** – Albert Cendejas (CSET) reported that approximately 471 tax returns were completed by the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for seniors this season. Additionally, Sharon DeMasters commented that the Kings County Commission on Aging prepared about 200 returns at the Armona office, for seniors. Mary Alice Escarsega-Fechner (CSET) said that CSET will be applying this year through the IRS to get additional funding.

Sharon DeMasters announced the upcoming Friendship Day at the Civic Auditorium in Hanford, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 22, 2015. Lunch will be served.
 3. **Approval of Minutes** – Marlene Chambers motioned to accept the minutes of the March 16, 2015, Council meeting. Maggie Woodhouse seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.
 4. **Announcements and Correspondence** – None.
 5. **Milestone Updates** – Nothing to report.
 6. **Review of Area Plan Update (APU)** – Brooke Sisk, Administrative Specialist, said that she had nothing additional to report about the Area Plan Update, other than what was reported at

the Governing Board meeting, earlier. Since all the Council members present were also at the earlier Governing Board meeting, no further information was reported.

Dr. Wood asked for more information on the process of Area Plan development, (The original four-year plan becomes updated each year of the plan). Ms. Sisk said that next year, the K/T AAA will need to submit a four-year plan to the State. A major “needs assessment” survey will be done this summer in preparation of completing the comprehensive four-year plan, which will be due in May 2016. The needs assessment survey is part of the process and staff will be reaching out to K/T AAA sub-contractors, and possibly members of the Advisory Council to help, in order to get as much feedback as possible. More information will follow.

7. **Needs Assessment for Area Plan Update** – See comments in Item # 6.
8. **California Senior Legislature (CSL)** – No further comments other than what had been reported earlier at the Governing Board meeting. (See minutes of July 20, 2015, once available.)
9. **Additional Member Comments** – Dr. Wood reported that this week is Senior Corps Week to recognize the Senior Corp volunteers across the country. It is also the 50th anniversary of the Corp’s Foster Grandparents program.

Mary Krieg-Vasquez said that she is a member of the Senior Corp (with RSVP) and in the four-county area of Fresno, Madera, Kings and Tulare there are 840 volunteers and the number is growing. She said this past year there has been huge volunteer impact. In the distribution of food, alone there are over 300 volunteers involved, serving over 120,000 people in the four-county area.

Ms. DeMasters suggested that K/T AAA connect with RSVP volunteers to help in the needs assessment effort. Ms. Krieg-Vasquez said RSVP has two field coordinators that could help take the surveys out to the senior centers, sites, and far-reaching rural communities.

Dr. Wood suggested the reverse arrangement from the Foster Grandparent Program, i.e. families adopting a senior, one who may be isolated and could be included in a family’s social events. In this regard, Ms. Sisk mentioned K/T AAA’s Senior Stocking program wherein staff and volunteers go out to home-bound seniors to provide a gift and a visit for the holiday.

Dr. Wood said he had spoken to people involved in the Aging and Care program in Three Rivers, which is expanding its programs as well - helping seniors, who, for example, can’t access evening concerts, or other events and that may just need a designated ride to help facilitate attending social events. Three Rivers This would be the reverse of the Foster Grandparents idea - this would be adopting a senior into the family if the senior does not have immediate family close by.

Marlene said that when she goes to the senior dances Wednesday and Friday, she takes one or two seniors that can’t drive anymore in order to facilitate their attending.

10. **Adjourn** – Meeting ended 11:20 a.m.

NEXT:

**Governing Board Meeting
October 19, 2015
10:00 a.m.
Corcoran Senior Center
800 Dairy Drive
Corcoran, CA 93212**



**Advisory Council Meeting
October 19, 2015
11:00 a.m.
Corcoran Senior Center
800 Dairy Drive
Corcoran, CA 93212**