 ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

(of) March 18, 2019

Tulare County Board of Supervisors Bldg.

Conference Rooms A/B

Visalia, CA 93291

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Cecilia Bobst

Marlene Chambers

Betsey Foote

Dan Fox

Sharon Lamagno

Ms. Bobbie Wartson

Dr. David Wood

Suzann Wray

**MEMBERS ABSENT**:

Grace Henn

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jamie Sharma, Aging Services Manager

Matthew Kredit, Budget Officer

Israel Guardado, Analyst

Kali Carson, Aging Services Assistant

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

**GUESTS & ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Albert Cendejas, CSET

Elba Schere

1. **Call to Order** – Dr. David Wood, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Introductions of Council Members and Guests** – Attendance, as above. Guest, Elba Schere introduced herself as the Director/Volunteer Coordinator for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Madera Counties.
3. **Public Comment**

* Albert Cendejas reported on the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) services provided by volunteers, and especially the dates and times of VITA services provided at the senior centers. He also announced Friday, May 3, 2019, as the Senior Day in the Park event. He said transportation still remains a challenge, so any ideas would be appreciated, especially for the Visalia area. Advisory Council members that would like to volunteer can go to the CSET website to sign up for a volunteer opportunity. Council member, Suzann Wray commented that, last year, she had a lot of fun helping at the Hospitality booth during the event.
* Ms. Bobbie Wartson commented that she appreciates the Governing Board’s action to give the KCCOA the 35,000 plus dollars out of the K/T AAA Trust Fund, that is owed to them by Kings County for senior services that KCCOA has rendered.
* Dr. Wood said that each Council member can choose to be as much of an advocate as he or she wishes, which includes attending Board of Supervisors meetings to voice concerns. He said the Council has the responsibility to act as spokespersons for the aging population of the two counties.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Marlene Chambers motioned to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2018, meeting; the motion was seconded by Suzann Wray and the minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **Announcements and Correspondence** – Marlene Chambers announced a fundraiser at Applebee’s restaurant (Hanford) from 8 to 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 31, 2019. The event includes a pancake breakfast, opportunity drawing, and silent auction. Tickets are $10.
3. **Milestone Updates** – None.
4. **Senior Day in the Park “*Save the Date*”** – Albert Cendejas said the theme for the 2019 Senior Day event is the *Golden Anniversary* because it is the 50th year of the event. It will take place on Friday, May 3, 2019.
5. **Area Plan Update –** Israel Guardado said this year is the last update of the 2016-20 Area Plan cycle. Every year for the update is it required that the Agency gets input from both the public and the Advisory Council members. This has been accomplished some years by sending the update to every member of the Council and other times to the members who were part of the ABC Committee. Dr. Wood suggested that the document be forwarded to all Council members electronically so they have the opportunity to comment. Dr. Wood, Dan Fox, and Marlene Chambers will serve as the official reviewers.
6. **Council Membership –** Membership Committee Chair, Suzann Wray, reported that the new applicant for the Council, Judie Casey’s work on the Grand Jury is in conflict with the Council’s meeting time. The Grand Jury committee to which Ms. Casey is assigned convenes on Monday mornings, as does the K/T AAA Advisory Council. Ms. Wray said she will suggest to Ms. Casey that she become an alternate Council member until her work with the Grand Jury ends. At that time, if she is still interested in being on the Council, she can be recommended for seated appointment. Ms. Lamagno, who also serves on the Grand Jury, said the usual Grand Jury term is to July 1, although often a person is eligible to serve another year. However, a different committee assignment may not interfere with the Council meetings. Ms. Wray suggested that the Council wait until July 1, 2019 to make any recommendation for appointment.

Dr. Wood said it is fairly imperative that members are able to regularly attend the meetings, and that participation on the Advisory Council includes attending the meetings. He suggested Ms. Wray follow up with Ms. Casey to find out if, after July, she will be more available. Then the application can be moved forward at that time.

1. **Committee Appointment** – This item concerns the appointment of a third person to the Membership Committee to replace Kyle Melton, who resigned off the Council in December 2018. Currently, the Committee has two members, Marlene Chambers (Kings Co.) and Suzann Wray, (Tulare Co.) Ms. Tidwell commented that at the last meeting it was suggested that Grace Henn could be formally appointed to the Membership Committee. Ms. Wray will follow up by contacting Grace Henn, who was not present at the meeting.

Dr. Wood commented that although Dan Fox has basically been serving as a committee of one for Transportation matters, there really should be a Transportation Committee with more members appointed to it since it deals with key issues.

Additionally, Dr. Wood said potentially the intersection of aging and mental health in the years to come will be a big issue at the California Senior Legislature (CSL).

1. **Staff Reports**

* Matthew Kredit, Budget Officer, reported on the approved K/T AAA budget for next year. He noted that any changes greater than 10 percent required that it get brought back to the Governing Board for further approval.

Dr. Wood said the President’s most recent budget proposals to Congress has included a significant reduction in various social services – funds that will then translate back eventually to the K/T AAA, and is a good reason the Agency maintains its Trust Fund. Mr. Kredit said the Trust Fund balance is $698,000, noting that $400,000 is used to operate the Agency for the first three months at the beginning of the year until CDA catches up with its payments. Basically, the Trust Fund floats the program for a solid three months until the CDA payments start coming in.

Dr. Wood asked if there is a mandatory reserve that is required. Mr. Kredit said the only thing the Single Audit has reported in the past in this regard is that the balance, which at one time was approximately $500,000, was considered excessive and K/T AAA was advised to spend it down. Shortly after, the Federal government budget was not approved timely, and if not for the Trust Fund being able to cover Agency expenses, it would have been a serious problem. He said, at the moment, the auditors are fine with the health of the Trust Fund.

1. **Development of the May 2019 Council Agenda –** Council member Dan Fox suggested a review of the membership Orientation Manual, especially the Bylaws and the purpose of the Council. It was noted that some documents may need to be modified and updated.
2. **Additional Member Comments** – Dr. Wood said the California Senior Legislature (CSL) will be a potential item on tax returns as a check off – code 438- in the future, but not this year. He said there are two check-off boxes for senior concerns: the California Seniors Special Fund and the Senior Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Tax Contribution – this is the CSL fund. If designated, a contribution amount goes to these causes. (See below)

* **Code 400, California Seniors Special Fund**

If you and/or your spouse/RDP are 65 years of age or older as of January 1, 2019, and claim the Senior Exemption Credit, you may make a combined total contribution of up to $236 or $118 per spouse/RDP. Contributions made to this fund will be distributed to the Area Agency on Aging Councils (TACC) to provide advice on and sponsorship of Senior Citizens issues. Any excess contributions not required by TACC will be distributed to senior citizen service organizations throughout California for meals, adult day care, and transportation.

* **Code 438, California Senior Citizen Advocacy Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund**

Contributions will be used to conduct the sessions of the California Senior Legislature and to support its ongoing activities on behalf of older persons.

Council member Cece Bobst said she wanted the Council to know that the Dinuba Senior Center is open and available to hold meetings on Mondays, if there is a need. Ms. Bobst is the site Manager of the Dinuba Senior Center.

1. **Adjourn –** The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.