 ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

 (of) January 22, 2018

 Tulare Co. Board of Supervisors Bldg., Conf. Rooms A/B

 Visalia, CA 93291

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marsha Calhoun

Marlene Chambers

Benjamin Cordova

Dan Fox

Sharon Lamagno

Kyle Melton

Bobbie Wartson

Dr. David Wood

Suzann Wray

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Betsey Foote

Grace Henn

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Juliet Webb, K/T AAA Director

Jamie Sharma, Aging Services Manager

Matthew Kredit, Administrative Specialist

Christopher Glidden, Outreach Team, Sound

Israel Guardado, Analyst

Bonnie Quiroz, Adult Advocate

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

Kali Carson, HICAP Volunteer Coordinator

**GUESTS & ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Albert Cendejas, CSET

1. **Call to Order** – Dr. David Wood, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m. and welcomed everyone. He noted that proceedings of the meeting are recorded for the accuracy of the minutes and then deleted.
2. **Introductions of Council Members and Guests** – Introductions were done by Council members, K/T AAA staff, and guests in attendance. (See above.)
3. **Public Comment**
* Albert Cendejas, CSET, announced the beginning of the (2018) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program season. Eight of the Tulare County senior centers will be hosting VITA sites throughout the month of February, including: Cutler-Orosi, Earlimart, Lindsay, Woodlake, Farmersville, Exeter, Goshen, and Porterville. He invited anyone who needs help with his or her taxes or knows a senior that might need help with taxes to attend. If one calls ahead, a meal can be reserved. Every Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. VITA help will be available. For the smaller, rural communities, the services will be brought to them.
* The date for the 2018 Senior Day in the Park has been chosen as May 18, 2018. Jeremy Pearce as “Elvis” has been booked and is confirmed to be part of the entertainment. May 17, is used as a set up day for the event.
* Marlene Chambers announced a fund-raising breakfast at the Palace on Friday, February 23, 2018. Proceeds will go to the Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA). The breakfast is $5 for an “all-you-can-eat” buffet. The Palace doubles whatever proceeds the meal brings in.
* On May 9, 2018, there will be a health fair at the Kings County Civic Auditorium in Hanford. Additionally, the Kings County Friendship Day event will be on June 8, 2018.
1. **Approval of Minutes** – Marlene Chambers motioned to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2017, meeting; the motion was seconded by Dan Fox and the minutes were approved unanimously with no discussion. Marsha Calhoun abstained.
2. **Announcements and Correspondence**
* Dr. Wood announced that the TACC group which is an association of Area Agencies on Aging (California has 33 Advisory Councils) is meeting in Sacramento on February 21, 2018; he said it would be good for K/T AAA to have representation. He is unable to attend due to a schedule conflict. He also noted February 22, 2018, is the C4A Capitol Day in Sacramento. Juliet Webb commented that Capitol Day is a chance to advocate for various programs with the legislators. She said it coincides with the C4A meeting, so she and Ms. Sharma will already be in Sacramento and she is looking forward to it, although she isn’t familiar with how it is organized for the seniors to participate.

The TACC meeting is generally for the Chair or Vice Chair of the Council. Ms. Webb said she and Ms. Sharma will be attending C4A in January and can send information out about how it is being organized, if anyone is interested in attending the Capitol Day.

Regarding the TACC meeting, Dr. Wood said typically the attending person makes his or her own travel and lodging arrangements, then those costs are reimbursed. He also noted that the quarterly report is due in February to the TACC organization. He is working on getting the PSA reports, which are submitted to TACC, to be available to K/T AAA so they can be posted publicly on K/T AAA’s site. These are reports from all the PSA’s on what the various agencies are doing to serve their communities.

1. **Milestone Updates** – Milestone Updates was combined with Additional Member Comments at the end of the agenda.
2. **2018 Schedule of Meetings: Dates and Locations** – Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide distributed a partial schedule of meetings with tentative dates. The schedule required further information and she asked that the Council take a moment to get a consensus on when and where the 2018 meetings get scheduled. If the Council wants to continue to hold some of its meetings at the senior centers, those will need to be coordinated with CSET. Months when there is a mirrored Governing Board meeting scheduled, those dates are already confirmed because the Governing Board has confirmed its schedule of meetings. The alternate months still required to have time, date, and location confirmed. It was decided to set the date for the first six months of the year. The senior center locations will be worked out between CSET and K/T AAA staff. It was decided to have the February meeting on February 12, 2018, to begin at 10:30 a.m. Ms. Sharma noted that Feb 12 is a holiday, not for the County, but for anyone having children or grandchildren for whom they provide care. Schools observe it as a holiday and that could be problematic. Ms. Lamagno said she will not be able to attend on February 12th.

The April Council meeting will be April 23. Ms. Tidwell also reminded the Council that for the March 19 meeting, the location will be re-scheduled to be held in Kings County, along with the March Governing Board meeting.

Dr. Wood said the preference is to rotate as much as possible to the centers and to be visible. Ms. Webb commented that when the Council met at the Earlimart Center, the seniors were very appreciative and K/T AAA staff left a nice proclamation for them that their staff could easily display on the wall. She said this is a nice gesture; to take the centers something from the K/T AAA to connect them to the Agency and linking the center to the K/T AAA.

Ms. Tidwell said the schedule indicates the meetings will begin at 11 a.m. but if it is better to begin at 10:30 a.m. that can easily be changed. (It was decided that meetings on the same day as Governing Board meetings will begin at 11; otherwise, the Advisory meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m.) The June meeting will be June 11, 2018. Suzann Wray noted she will not be available for the June meeting.

Dr. Wood said that he has had conversations with Juliet Webb and Jamie Sharma about developing the Advisory Council in order to make it a good and valuable resource for the K/T AAA and to forecast ideas on how to guide the Council in its direction.

Ms. Wray asked Dr. Wood to explain what connection he makes with the Tule River Indian Reservation. Dr. Wood said the Tule River Reservation has an Elder Council, which meets monthly and is specifically for the elders to discuss issue of the reservation and its residents. The meetings are usually several hours with a lunch break. The Elders, as part of their formal agenda include an item for Dr. Wood to update them on what is being done with the K/T AAA Advisory Council and the Mental Health Board. This allows for both formal contact and informal networking connections, such as, for example, the Public Health Nurse and the Public Guardian’s office have been able to re-direct the Suicide Prevention Task Force training on mental health to the reservation. He noted that Betsey Foote is a member of the tribe’s Elder Council and the K/T AAA Advisory Council. Due to recruiting efforts, Ms. Foote made the decision to request appointment to the Advisory Council. As an example of the dual purpose of this arrangement, when Ms. Foote went to the C4A conference, she was able to get information to bring back to the tribe and to Council.

In keeping with that, Dr. Wood said he had a long discussion with the Director of the Source, the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning) program and hopefully a member of that community will be able to participate with the Advisory Council, in order to increase the diversity of the Council.

1. **Invitation to the Heart of Seniors Event –** Christine Tidwell said K/T AAA is extending the invitation to its Advisory Council members to attend the Heart of Seniors event on February 15, 2018. This annual resource event is not hosted by K/T AAA, but is geared toward seniors, their families and caregivers, and is an opportunity to gain information on a variety of issues. This year’s keynote speaker is Dr. Michelle Peticolas. K/T AAA will provide a ticket for any member of the Advisory Council that wishes to attend.

Bonnie Quiroz, the Aging and Adult Senior Advocate, noted that several K/T AAA programs, including herself and the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy (HICAP) and the Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) have information booths at this event. Dr. Wood mentioned that it is a good networking opportunity because so many senior organizations are represented.

1. **Staff Reports**
* Matthew Kredit, Administrative Specialist, said that in February he will be reaching out to Dan Fox and Grace Henn, who have both expressed interest in being part of the A/B/C committee. This committee helps to review the **A**rea Plan, **B**udget, and **C**ontracts. He said he will be working on the budgets a little in advance this year so would like to get input on the budget the K/T AAA is proposing. Ms. Webb said she would also like to utilize the ABC committee to review the upcoming Request For Proposal (RFP).
* Israel Guardado said that K/T AAA is updating its website: [www.ktaaa.org](http://www.ktaaa.org) . One of the major changes to the site is that all services will be put front and center. The current site is more like a blog with current events - this will be switched to better display the aging services available. Any suggestions are welcome and will be considered in the continued effort to improve the site.

Ms. Sharma, Aging Services Manager, said she would like to share the link to the test site in order to get feedback prior to going live. Mr. Guardado said that isn’t possible because it is only hosted on the County network. Dr. Wood asked if there are HHSA requirements as to what can be in the content; for example, he would like to be able to post the TACC reports from the various aging service areas. Ms. Webb said the K/T AAA will be managing its own site and content, and content can be uploaded to the site, ongoing. Dr. Wood said he would like to include the Advisory Council minutes so that anyone from the community can access the Council meeting minutes and agenda, and additionally the Orientation Handbook, noting this will be a good resource for recruiting efforts. It was decided that staff will bring equipment and demonstrate the new site at the next meeting.

* Ms. Tidwell announced that the California Senior Legislature (CSL) elections are coming up. Representatives are elected every four years. The election process needs to be completed by the end of May. K/T AA has one Senior Senator and one Senior Assembly person. This election is advertised in the community to any interested persons. The CSL representatives do not need to be members of the Advisory Council. For the past several elections, the Advisory Council has been the electing body, which is one of the electing methods authorized by the CSL. Dr. Wood noted that Sharon Lamagno has served as the Assembly person for several years, but is considering relinquishing the post. Dr. Wood was appointed as the CSL Senator upon the loss of Don Turner in 2016. He said he is willing to continue to maintain continuity, but that in looking to the future, he will be “stepping out of the way” at some point. The CSL proposes, advocates, and lobbies for legislation that impacts seniors. Both Dr. Wood and Ms. Lamagno said for anyone even remotely interested they would strongly encourage participation.
* Ms. Webb said that every year there is a World Elder Abuse Awareness month in June. In Tulare County Adult Protective Services (APS) has always taken the lead on this effort. Last year, APS orchestrated an event at Government Plaza with a lot of dignitaries attending. It is hoped that this year will be even bigger and better, with a number of planned activities including a presentation to the Board of Supervisors regarding Elder Abuse Awareness. K/T AAA has already been partnering with APS to work on materials and innovative ways of sharing the message of preventing abuse against elders. This year, it is hoped to have more of a collaborative approach between K/T AAA and APS. She said she wants to open it up to the Council so that as those activities draw near, it would be wonderful to have more seniors at the events. Additionally, there is a planning group that is currently working on developing the World Elder Abuse month activities and if anyone wishes to help on that subcommittee, involvement is welcome and it is a way to put a “fingerprint” on the materials that are being created. Ms. Webb said she wanted to open this up as an opportunity to participate with this event.

Ms. Quiroz also mentioned there will be fundraising activities in coordination with this effort – breakfasts or luncheons – that will be organized to generate donations and support money. She will let the Council know as more information becomes available.

1. **Development of the February 2018 Council Agenda** – The February meeting will be on February 12, 2018. It was decided that this meeting will be centered on the visual presentation of the proposed new K/T AAA website.

Dr. Wood gave a shout out and acknowledgement to Ms. Tidwell, thanking her for her work behind the scenes to coordinate the meetings and presenters.

1. **Additional Member Comments and Milestone Updates**
* Dan Fox said he has not given up on the Three Rivers Aging in Community (AIC) effort to help with transportation. He said there are other grants that are possible, but in the meantime, he said he was looking for the consent of the Council to go on a field trip to Three Rivers to assess the “shovel ready” nature of their services and whether their services would be eligible and can be converted to a viable grant. He was hoping to get the approval of the Council and possibly someone who lives in the Three Rivers community to go, too.

Dr. Wood (a resident of Three Rivers) noted there are shuttle bus stops in the community, but they are not user friendly. Mr. Fox said he would like to make an appointment with AIC to meet them and to see how their process works and how tasks are documented and how volunteer mileage is logged. He will coordinate with Dr. Wood and/or anyone else that wants to participate. Ms. Sharma asked Mr. Fox to keep her informed, so that either she or someone else within the K/T AAA can accompany him.

Dr. Wood said that any and all proactive ideas are welcome and this also allows the Council to present to the Governing Board what the Council is doing and helps them to see that work is being accomplished. It also allows for the sharing of ideas between Advisory Councils and at the State level.

1. **Adjourn** –The business meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.