 ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

(of) November 20, 2017 Meeting

Tulare Co. Board of Supervisors Bldg.

2800 W. Burrel Ave, Conference Rooms A/B

Visalia, CA 93291

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marlene Chambers

Benjamin Cordova m

Dan Fox

Grace Henn

Kyle Melton

David Wood

Suzann Wray

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Marsha Calhoun

Betsey Foote

Sharon Lamagno

Bobbie Wartson

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Juliet Webb, K/T AAA Director

Jamie Sharma, Aging Services Manager

Matthew Kredit, Administrative Specialist

Israel Guardado, Analyst

Bonnie Quiroz, Adult Advocate

Nancy Aldaoud, Administrative Aide

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

**GUESTS & ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Albert Cendejas, CSET

Amy Espinosa, CSET

Christi Hutson, RN, Adult Protective Service

Mike Steck, Community Outreach Team

1. **Call to Order** – Dr. David Wood, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. The Chair noted that proceedings of the meeting are recorded for accuracy of minutes and then deleted once the minutes are transcribed.
2. **Introductions of Guests and Council Members** – Introductions were done by the meeting attendees. (See above.)
3. **Public Comment** – None
4. **Approval of Minutes** – For the approval of the minutes of the October 16, 2017, meeting, Dan Fox motioned to approve; the motion was seconded by Marlene Chambers. The minutes were approved unanimously, with no discussion.
5. **Announcements and Correspondence** – Marlene Chambers announced that for those who aren’t aware of it, the Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA) is moving to the Armona Senior Center location on December 1, 2017. The Kings County HICAP office will also be working out of the new location.

On a separate note, the Council wished Ms. Chambers a belated Happy Birthday, which she had recently celebrated.

Bonnie Quiroz, Tulare County Adult Family Advocate thanked Council member Kyle Melton and his wife Barbara for their help in collecting contributions for the Senior Holiday Stocking campaign. They have also been instrumental in having St. Paul’s church congregation participate in giving donations.

Jamie Sharma, the Tulare County Aging Services Manager, announced that Nancy Aldaoud, K/T AAA Administrative Aide has accepted a position in Kern County, which is closer to her home, and she will be leaving the K/T AAA. Her last day with the K/T AAA will be November 22, 2017. Ms. Aldaoud said she has had the most wonderful experience working with the K/T AAA and she will miss it.

Albert Cendejas distributed a flyer and announced that Valley Caregivers Resources Center will be holding a Family Caregiver workshop at the CSET offices.

1. **Milestone Updates** – There were no milestone updates.
2. **New Chair/Vice Chair Candidates** – Election Committee Chair, Kyle Melton, said that Council Bylaws stipulate that every two years, the Chair and Vice Chair are elected. Nominations and elections occur in the odd year, with elections at the last meeting of the year, usually in December. The Chair then appoints a parliamentarian at the first meeting of the new year. Mr. Melton said the current Chair, Dr. Wood and the current Vice Chair, Marlene Chambers have agreed to be considered candidates for second terms (2018-2019). There were no other nominations or candidates presented from the floor.

The Chair said that since the item is on the agenda as an action item, he would entertain either of two motions: one motion would be to continue to hold nominations open, with a vote in December; or alternately, to hold the election at this meeting, given that there are not additional candidates who have volunteered or have been recommended. Dan Fox motioned that the vote proceed at this meeting; Grace Henn seconded the motion. There was no discussion or opposition. The vote for Chair and Vice Chair was moved forward with both candidates being voted into their currently held positions for a second term.

Dr. Wood said that he is willing to accept a two-year term of Chair, but that he intends to resign all of his participation on all Boards in two years. Consequently, if elected, he said he will do everything he can to spur other Council members to participate in the various meetings, such as C4A, CSL, TACC, and other meeting opportunities at the State level, to make sure that in two-year’s time, Council members will feel adequately prepared to carry on with a new Chair.

1. **CA Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A)-Los Angeles –** Council members Betsey Foote and Benjamin Cordova attended the 2017 C4A Annual Meeting and Allied Conference in Los Angeles. Mr. Cordova reported that there was a lot of information available on a wide variety of topics from a wide array of vendors, as well as a lot of activities taking place, and he enjoyed attending. He noted that due to a mix up with his room reservations, he unfortunately wasn’t able to attend the second day of the event. He was impressed with the amount of information available and pamphlets of every kind, across myriad subjects from scams and fraud to foreclosure issues, to nutrition services, and most were available in both English and Spanish. He also noted how willing the vendors were to provide more outreach material to attendees, if anyone needed a quantity of items for distribution, for instance to give to a group. He said the presentations, workshops, and roundtables were also remarkable and that it was a great opportunity to share information on what services are being provided in different communities and also what services are not being provided. Mr. Cordova noted the most interesting workshop for him was the Legislative Updates workshop, including budget concerns and how they impact services and service availability for seniors.

Jamie Sharma, the Aging Services Manager said she also absolutely appreciated all the information available, especially as she is new to Aging Services and the conference provided a broad spectrum of information, including, for example: “Saving HICAP, the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy program for Medicare; Dementia Care for the LGBT Senior Community; Nutrition Program, Best Practices; and Mental Health Services for Older Adults. She said the more people that can participate, including Council members, the more benefit to the K/T AAA and to the seniors.

Council member, Grace Henn, said she would definitely appreciate being able to attend at the next opportunity.

1. **Presentation on Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention –** Christi Hutson, the RN working with The Adult Protective Services (APS) and the Public Guardian (PG) presented a training on Elder abuse, its different manifestations and how to recognize it and prevent it. She also touched on the ways in which APS and/or PG interface with law enforcement, when necessary, in order to keep seniors safe and also to keep APS and PG personnel safe in risky situations.
2. **Staff Reports** – Jamie Sharma announced that Nancy Aldaoud, who has worked with K/T AAA for about 2 years, is leaving the Agency for a position in Bakersfield, where she has recently moved.

Additionally, Ms. Sharma said that she and several staff went to meet with St. Anthony Retreat staff to begin the plans for the December Council meeting and end-of-the-year Appreciation luncheon, which is scheduled for December 18, 2017. In relation to that, a sign-up sheet was circulated to get an idea of who would be attending and/or bringing a guest, so that an estimated head count could be determined for the event. The lunch meal for all Council members and a guest, if they chose to bring one, will be courtesy of the K/T AAA.

Matthew Kredit said that on the way back from the C4A conference, he received a notification about the current budget, and because the Federal budget is based on Oct through September, the Agency gets three months from the previous fiscal year. This fiscal year there has been no Federal budget created yet, and K/T AAA is running off a continuing resolution. Last year, when running off the continuing resolution, the Agency ended up being funded through about May. There has already been notification that only 24 percent of funding will be released for this year, so far. That 24 percent will get the Agency through December. Come January 2018, the Agency will be operating off its Trust Fund Account (contingency funds) if the government does not get a budget approved. The Trust Fund can provide for about four months, comfortably; or 6 months, stretched. Juliet Webb, the K/T AAA Director said this is why the Agency holds money in the Trust Fund - because of the “craziness” of the budget situation. The hope is that a budget will be passed by December.

Dr. Wood said that, as an advocacy effort, most Congress people and Senators can be easily contacted through email to encourage them to continue the funding for Aging Services. And this is part of what the Council members should do, is to intervene at whatever level they can.

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1. **Development of the December Council Agenda** – The Chair noted that because of the Holiday lunch event in December it isn’t really necessary to create any formal business. However, coming down the pike, it is probable that a new Senior Assembly person for the California Senior Legislature (CSL) will need to selected or designated. He said he would like to get this moving by the beginning of 2018. This will ensure representation at the CSL.

On a separate note, he said that the three-year plan for the Mental Health Services Act, which allocates the budget for Tulare County Mental Health, has a component called, innovation, and which includes pilot projects, which, if successful can be continued. He is conferring with Ms. Sharma, regarding older parents that have to care take their chronically ill (medically or psychiatrically) dependent adult offspring. This may present a situation for collaboration between K/T AAA and Mental Health to explore.

The Chair also noted several upcoming meetings, including TACC that, if possible, it would be advantageous to have a Council presence at, in order to find out what other Area Agencies are doing in their Advisory Councils/Committees.

Dr. Wood also mentioned there is an opportunity to be a part of the Older Adult Sub-committee of the Tulare County Mental Health Program.

Council member, Dan Fox, reported on funding ideas for transportation. He met with Ms. Webb prior to the Council meeting and he will be looking at multiple areas that may or may not be available to access. He said they discussed the 5310, which is a Federal transportation program through the FTA, and which is meant for elderly and disabled people. He said that the State runs the program for the Federal program. It had a call for projects in August of this year for a three-year period (for $400,000 of available funding). Since nobody applied for it, it was given to the City of Visalia, which didn’t have a specific project, but didn’t want to lose it to the State. Mr. Fox will contact the City of Visalia to see if it would be interested in supporting the Three Rivers, Aging in Community volunteer reimbursement (transportation assistance). This could be a great pilot program for them to support. It was also discussed the Kings County component, whether they have money available under that same program because it was done on a County-wide basis. It was noted that the volunteers for Aging in Community log thousands of miles in volunteer service transporting seniors to necessary appointments, etc. Mr. Fox said that he hopes it will be able to expand to County wide, because the more affluent Three Rivers economic factors don’t transcend the whole County; for instance, it is much more difficult in an area such as Earlimart for volunteers to give free rides, because it isn’t economically feasible.

1. **Additional Member Comments** – No comments.
2. **Adjourn** –The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.