 ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

(of) February 12, 2018

Exeter Senior Center

301 S. E Street

Exeter, CA 93211

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marlene Chambers

Benjamin Cordova

Dan Fox

Kyle Melton

Bobbie Wartson

Dr. David Wood

Suzann Wray

**MEMBERS ABSENT**:

Betsey Foote

Grace Henn

Sharon Lamagno

Marsha Calhoun

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Juliet Webb, K/T AAA Director

Jamie Sharma, Aging Services Manager

Matthew Kredit, Administrative Specialist

Israel Guardado, Analyst

Bonnie Quiroz, Adult Advocate

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

Kali Carson, HICAP Volunteer Coordinator

**GUESTS & ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Albert Cendejas, CSET

Veronica Franco, Exeter Site Manager

Seniors from the Exeter Center

1. **Call to Order** – Dr. David Wood, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m. and welcomed everyone. He mentioned how convenient it was that the Exeter Senior Center has preferred parking designated for seniors. He also 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. (As above.)
3. **Public Comment**

* Albert Cendejas of CSET said that at the last meeting, it was announced that the VITA income tax assistance program was being conducted at senior centers. He said that the Dinuba Senior Center has also been added to list of centers places these services are available. As of February 21, 2018, the VITA program will be in Dinuba area.
* Dr. Wood explained (for the benefit of the seniors at the Exeter Center), that the

K/T AAA is the organization that collaborates between the two Counties of Kings and Tulare for the administration of Federal and State dollars for senior programing in the two counties. It is the responsible authority for making sure Federal and State funds are channeled appropriately for services to seniors in both counties.

1. **Approval of Minutes** –Marlene Chambers motioned to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2018, meeting; the motion was seconded by Kyle Melton and the minutes were approved unanimously with no discussion.
2. **Announcements and Correspondence**

* Council member Dan Fox announced that, based on his work with the K/T AAA Council and his work with Tulare County and its transportation services, the County had given him an award as a Social Services Transportation Advocate. Additionally, he received a U.S. Congressional designation – a certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, signed by Congressman Kevin McCarthy, and one from the California State Legislature, signed by Assemblyman Devin Mathis. Dr. Wood offered congratulations from the Council on these recognitions.
* Council member Bobbie Wartson reminded everyone about the community breakfast on February 23, 2018, 8:30 – 10 a.m. for a $5 buffet at the Tachi Palace. This event is a fund raising effort to benefit Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA), with the Palace matching any funds raised by the event.
* Dr. Wood announced that the TACC group, which is an Association of Area Agencies on Aging, is meeting in Sacramento on February 21, 2018. He is unable to attend and asked if anyone could attend in his place to represent K/T AAA. He reiterated that the

K/T AAA wants to keep a presence at these meetings at the State level. He said the next meeting date will be approximately 3 months out - with the idea that the Council can have one of its members attend.

* Christine Tidwell, K/T AAA Administrative Aide made an announcement about *Capitol Day* in Sacramento. Juliet Webb, K/T AAA Director, said that she will be at the event on February 22nd, and if anyone else is interested in attending, to let staff know so appropriate arrangements can be made. Ms. Webb said the California Director of Finance will be there and whether or not anyone else can attend, she and Aging Services Manager, Jamie Sharma, will be there and intend to bring back a report for the Council in March.
* Dr. Wood also mentioned the upcoming California Senior Legislature (CSL) elections for the CSL State Assemblyperson and State Senator. It was mentioned that these representatives do not have to be members of the Advisory Council. Generally, a recruitment notice is published in the local newspapers. The Advisory Council does act as the electing body.

1. **Milestone Updates** – No Updates.
2. **Senior Day in the Park Planning Committee** – Ms. Sharma, announced that the Senior Day in the Park event has been scheduled for Friday, May 18, 2018. A committee is being created to help oversee the event, so she said an invitation to all Council members is there, if anyone is interested in this opportunity to help with the planning phase. Interested people can contact herself or Albert Cendejas. She said an advisory Council voice would be welcome on the team.
3. **Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) Recruitment –** Kali Carson, the HICAP Volunteer Coordinator, made a recruitment announcement for new volunteer counselors. Counselors help clients navigate through the complexities of Medicare. There are three types of volunteer positions: some volunteers counsel clients directly; some do data entry and/or clerical service; and there is also a Medicare fraud detection piece, for which counselors can do outreach to the public. Currently, a recruitment ad is running in both the Tulare and Kings County newspapers. She requested if anyone is interested or knows anyone who may be interested, to please pass on the information. Currently, there are 12 counselors working with the program. She distributed a flier of the recruitment information.
4. **Review of the Newly Designed K/T AAA Website –** Israel Guardado, K/T AAA Staff Analyst, displayed the new K/T AAA website with its new features and renovated, updated look. As a point of comparison, he said the main focus used to be on events, but now the focus will be more on available services, with resources more at a client’s fingertips. The site address will remain the same, as ktaaa.org, and will go “live” within the next week or two.

Dr. Wood commented that it looks “awesome” and that this media format for getting information out to the senior community is great. He noted that his mother was an advocate for senior causes and especially advocated for using media sources to help seniors participate in the community and political realms; and, that this is exactly the type of resource that is appreciated for those purposes. He also said that he and the Vice Chair had a recent meeting with the K/T AAA Administration about the directions the Agency wants to go in the future. He said this is a great resource for the community and it is potentially a model for other organizations, including Tulare County HHSA and the TACC group, as well as other Advisory Councils across the State. He appreciated that this is a facet of “leading by example,” rather than following. He asked Council member to try it out and show it to others - friends, neighbors, etc.

Ms. Webb agreed the site re-design looked great. She suggested items such as Public Service Announcements should have a place on the site, such as fraud and abuse notices to the public. Most of the aspects that were shown are items that the K/T AAA sponsors, but, she said, we should also be thinking about “awareness” activities and on-going campaigns, such as Older Americans Month (May). She noted that the HHSA website has a feature called the “Spotlight” to highlight relevant events as they come up. Spotlighted events don’t have to be created by K/T AAA; the site can provide a link to the sponsoring entity. Ms. Webb also mentioned the photo gallery (noting that pictures need a signed media release) and that the site should also be highlighting Kings County events as well. She told the Council if they are out in the community and are at an event at which they want to take pictures, a copy of the media release can be available, and then submitted pictures can be posted. She said it would be nice to see a robust variety, with a number of different activities going on around the County – events for seniors, but not necessarily events sponsored by K/T AAA. This type of cross promotion may help to drive more traffic to the site; for instance, notification of the community breakfast fundraiser at Tachi Palace for KCCOA. Suggestions for content can be sent to Mr. Guardado. The site will be going “live” within a week or two. Mr. Guardado said if anyone wants to contact him directly he can be reached by email, or there is a “Contact Us” form available on the site, which will get to him, but probably not as quickly.

Dan Fox inquired if the number of site visits to the older K/T AAA site had ever been gauged. Mr. Guardado said that information is available, but he didn’t have it.

1. **Staff Reports**

* Christine Tidwell distributed a schedule of the upcoming Council meetings as discussed at the January meeting. This revised schedule indicates the date, times, and locations of the meeting through July, 2018. Additionally, she distributed a list of all the Tulare County Senior Center sites and their locations.
* Ms. Sharma reported that, as referenced earlier, she and several K/T AAA staff and Dr. Wood and Marlene Chambers had met regarding the direction of the Council, moving forward. One of the ideas suggested was that it would be beneficial to have presentations on the internal programs overseen by the K/T AAA and/or the County. This will help Council members know what the various services are and how to access them. Ms. Webb added that as the presentations go forward, if there are any services that Council members would want to have further explained, via a presentation, such as when Noah Whitaker presented on the Suicide Prevention Task Force, those presentations can be coordinated as well. This will give an opportunity for the Council to learn more about available services.

1. **Development of the March 2018 Council Agenda** – Dr. Wood said this ties in with the previous idea of having presentations done at the Council meeting. The general overview for the March meeting will be to have a presenter in addition to the regular business issues. He added that another item would be to discuss a retreat, similar to the one held in 2017. If that is something helpful, another retreat can be considered.
2. **Additional Member Comments and Milestone Updates**

* Benjamin Cordova explained that he requested information to help a physician whom he had introduced to the community of Orange Cove a few years ago. At that time, the physician was interested in opening a rural health clinic. At that time, the Orange Cove clinic had closed down due to funding issues. The doctor had stepped in to bring the clinic back up to certified working order. At this current juncture, the doctor would like to venture into opening a senior day care center. The question is: what location will be most effective; i.e. Dinuba, Cutler-Orosi, Orange Cove, etc. The data is being looked at to figure out what would make the most sense. In current review of the area, he said it has been found that there are little to no services of that kind in that area. He asked for any references, in regard to, for example, building sites, location, community support – the full gamut as far as if it can actually work as a project. He asked the Council for any contacts that may have additional information from which he could glean further insight. It was suggested that Ms. Cheri Taylor, Executive Director of Valley Adult Day Care Service (VADS) would be a good contact. Dr. Wood suggested also checking with the Aging in Community group in Three Rivers. It was also suggested to check in with KCCOA, which also runs its adult day care service in Kings County. Albert Cendejas suggested getting in touch with Dr. Thusu with the Alta Health Clinic.
* On a different note, Dan Fox said that he hasn’t given up on helping the Three Rivers group, “Aging in Community,” (AIC) with its transportation issues. He arranged for Grace Klassen from the organization to have a spot on the Agenda for the Social Service Transit Advisory Committee and he encouraged AIC to attend the transportation “unmet needs” hearing held on March 19, 2018, at the Tulare County Board of Supervisors. He said, hopefully, the group will present its application for unmet needs. He also suggested that he wanted to make a site visit to AIC, along with Dr. Wood, since he is a resident of Three Rivers. (The date of this visit will be discussed with Dr. Wood).
* Albert Cendejas thanked the Council for holding its meeting at the Exeter Senior Center and introduced Veronica Franco, the site manager.

1. **Adjourn** –The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.