 ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

(of) May 15, 2017 Meeting

Earlimart Senior Center

712 East Washington Ave.

Earlimart, CA 93219

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marsha Calhoun

Marlene Chambers m

Kyle Melton

Bobbie Wartson

Suzann Wray

Dr. David Wood, Chair

Hal Hunter, Council Alternate

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Benjamin Cordova

Sharon Lamagno

Maggie Woodhouse

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Juliet Webb, Human Srvs. & K/T AAA Director

Bonnie Quiroz, Client Advocate

Matthew Kredit, Administrative Specialist

Israel Guardado, Analyst

Nancy Aldaoud, Administrative Aide

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

**GUESTS & ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Albert Cendejas, CSET

Dan Fox, Council Candidate

Patt Keddy

John Gutierrez, Site Manager

Senior attendees from the Earlimart Center

1. **Call to Order** – Dr. David Wood, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:48 a.m. He explained to the senior attendees at the center the function of the Council and its interaction with the Governing Board and he thanked the Earlimart seniors for hosting the two meetings.
2. **Welcome and Introductions of Guests, Staff, and Council Members** – Introductions were given by the K/T AAA Director, Council members, staff, and guests.
3. **Public Comment** – No public comment.
4. **Approval of Minutes** – The Chair entertained a motion from Marlene Chambers to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2017, meeting. The motion was seconded by Suzann Wray. With no discussion, the minutes were approved, with one abstention by Marsha Calhoun.
5. **Announcements and Correspondence** – Council Chair, Dr. Wood, said he has signed two letters that will be sent out to Council members whose lack of attendance at meetings has warranted their seats to be deemed vacated. This opens up two Kings County positions on the Council and the possibility of recruiting new members.
6. **Milestone Updates** – There were no milestone updates at this time.
7. **Committees and Committee Assignments –** Dr. Wood said the Council has had some discussions about this in relation to the Council becoming more active with other organizations. He said there has been discussion about participation with the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) and transportation, as well as participation on the Area Plan/Budgets/Contracts (ABC Committee) for representation to support the Agency on budgeting and Requests for Proposal (RFP) evaluations, etc. The California Senior Legislature representation is covered. (Dr. Wood is Senior Senator; Sharon Lamagno is Senior Assemblyperson).

Dr. Wood said there is an organization for the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Area Agency Advisory Councils. He commented that Marlene Chambers, as Vice Chair, may be available to attend those meetings. He said it important to be an active Council and to participate more directly in community organizations, including interests of transportation for seniors, housing, etc. He asked for volunteers for committee assignments in these areas of interest. It was noted that Council candidate, Dan Fox is currently a member of the TCAG Social Service Transit Advisory Committee and has been for many years. Additionally, as a former County employee Mr. Fox ran the County transit system for the last 14 years before his retirement. Dr. Wood commented that the Aging in Community group in Three Rivers is looking at how it can expand services and being able to submit applications for grants. He suggested the group could use some technical assistance in that effort.

Ms. Wray asked for more explanation of the ABC Committee and what it entails. Dr. Wood said that basically the Council has a responsibility to look at the Area Plans as they come forward, reviewing them and making recommendations. He gave the example of in the coming year, FY18/19, Kings County will be stepping back in its contract arrangement with K/T AAA and instead the Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA) will complete an RFP to provide Kings County services. Similarly, other organizations apply for grants to provide other services for the elderly. Grant proposals will be reviewed by the ABC Committee members who can make recommendations regarding contracts. Dr. Wood said the Council has the responsibility to look at funding coming from State and Federal sources and how the money is allocated across Tulare and Kings Counties. Ms. Wray asked that we bring the committee assignments up at the next Council meeting to give members a change to think and understand about what it entails.

Ms. Webb said the Agency would be happy to put together a summary about the ABC Committee and the intersection with the Advisory Council and what those opportunities are, and send it out to Council members to review.

Dr. Wood said another group that the Council should be involved with is 4ATCC. The K/T AAA is Public Service Area (PSA) 15. He said there is a regular, quarterly meeting in Sacramento for Area Agencies on Aging Advisory Councils. Historically, K/T AAA has not participated in those meetings. The idea is that the K/T AAA starts sending representation to those meeting, also.

1. **Membership Recommendations –** Kyle Melton said the Membership Committee has received applications from two interested candidates. One of the candidates, Grace Henn, he has not been successful in contacting. He introduced the other candidate, Dan Fox, who Mr. Melton said is very active in the community, and currently serves on the Grand Jury – a term through June 30, 2017. Mr. Melton said the Membership Committee recommends the Council moves forward on Mr. Fox’s application.

Dr. Wood entertained a motion to approve Mr. Fox’s application for appointment. Susann Wray moved for approval, with Marlene Chambers seconding the motion. The vote was a unanimous recommendation to move the candidates name forward for appointment.

Dr. Wood again broached the topic of his being the Chair of the Mental Health Board as well as the Advisory Council, which had been discussed at the April Advisory Council, at which time it was decided to have a 3-month waiting period before anything was decided. He noted that Vice Chair Marlene Chambers was willing and able to step up to the Chair position, if and when necessary. This issue had been brought to the attention of the Governing Board at its meeting earlier in the day. The question is whether things are good as they stand or is modification necessary, or should the Chairmanship remain as it is now and change at the Council’s regular election period in December. Mr. Melton said he understood from the Governing Board that the dual Chairmanships were not considered an issue.

1. **Staff Reports**

* Farmers Market Coupons – Bonnie Quiroz, Aging and Adult Family Advocate, said she and Albert Cendejas will work together to get the farmers to create some $4 value bags for the seniors that can then be delivered to the home-bound senior clients. Coupons are generally distributed at the certified Farmers Markets in Tulare and Kings County. Ms. Quiroz noted that the market manager of the Visalia market encourages farmers to take the extra step to become certified. Dr. Wood said there is a small organic farmer in Three Rivers with whom he would like to share the information on the certification process. He commented that the redemption rate for these coupons should be close to 100 percent and that being able to eat healthfully is really important.

One of the senior members from the center commented that many seniors have given up driving, so it is difficult to get to the Market in Visalia, even to take advantage of a program such as this.

* Senior Day Highlights – Dr. Wood said the festivities started at 9 a.m. for Senior Day in the Park on May 12th. Elvis impersonator, (Jeremy Pearce) was on hand for entertainment. There was a good turnout of attendees. The event went on until 2 p.m.

Albert Cendejas of CSET thanked those who helped pull the event together including all the volunteers. Performances included the Color Guard presentation of the flag and local talent, singer, Chole Gowin. Additionally, a mariachi band donated it’s time to perform at the event. Root beer floats were provided by A&W (sponsored by Vapor Trailers). Mr. Cendejas said over 1,000 meals were served at the event. Over 48 exhibitor booths were there providing resource information to attendees.

1. **Development of June Council Agenda** –

* Review of committee participation
* Moving forward with more membership
* Potentially talking more about the food voucher program (ideas about how to increase voucher utilization)
* Revisit leadership structure
* Aging in Community invitation to next Advisory Council (to support, encourage and learn from senior groups, including the Elder Council of the Tule River Tribe).
* Possible presentation on Elder Abuse prevention

This meeting will be arranged to be at the new Farmersville Senior site, (623 N. Avery Avenue, Farmersville, 93223). CSET helps in the management of this center. Dr. Wood said the more that Council members are out and about in the community the better it will be and this will allow the Council to find out what is working and conversely if anything needs improvement that is within the Council’s ability to help change it.

1. **Additional Member Comments** – Marlene Chambers reported that on June 9, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Kings County is having its Senior Spring Fling at the civic auditorium. There will be a 50/50 raffle prize, music, dancing, and “Elvis” will be performing. Lunch will be served at noon, with a $3 suggested donation. For additional information one can call KCCOA.
2. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.