



GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

To be approved on
January 27, 2014
10:00 a.m.

Minutes of Oct 21, 2013
View Road Senior Center (Hanford)
602 9 1/4 Avenue
Hanford, CA 93230

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Ennis, Chair, Tulare Co. – Dist. 5
Richard Fagundes, Vice Chair, Kings Co. – Dist. 5
Pete Vander Poel, Tulare Co. – Dist. 2
Allen Ishida, Tulare Co. – Dist. 1 (late arrival)
Tony Barba, Kings County – Dist. 4

STAFF PRESENT:

Tim Lutz, K/T AAA Director
Laura Silva, Aging Services Manager
Juliet Webb, Interim Director, Tulare County
Health and Human Services Agency
Bonnie Quiroz, Aging Services Client Advocate
Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marlene Chambers
Sharon DeMasters
Dick Johnson
Mary Krieg-Vasquez
Don Turner
Maggie Woodhouse

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mary Escarsega-Fechner,
Executive Director, C-SET
Albert Cendejas, Senior Program
Coordinator, C-SET
William J. Munoz, Office of Rudy Salas
Carla Treuting, CA Senior Legislator
Hal Hunter, Kings Co. Human Services
William Tidwell, Council Alternate

-
1. **Call to Order** – Supervisor Ennis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
 2. **Public Comment**
 - Sharon DeMasters announced that November is *National Caregiver Recognition* month.
 - Laura Silva introduced Juliet Webb, Acting Interim Human Services Director for Tulare County Health and Human Services. She oversees TulareWORKs, Child Welfare Services, and the Aging Services Division.
 - William Munoz, from the office of Rudy Salas announced that the annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner will be held at the Lemoore Senior Center. Everyone is welcome. For further information please call 559-633-0666. Help is needed to prepare and serve the meal. Those interested in volunteering can call, 585-1034.
 - Mary Krieg-Vasquez announced that the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) has begun its second annual *Socks for Seniors* drive. New pairs of socks will be collected and distributed to less fortunate seniors in both Kings and Tulare Counties. Persons interested in helping can contact her at 170-7696.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of August 19, 2013** – On a motion by Supervisor Fagundes, seconded by Supervisor Barba, the minutes of the August 19, 2013, meeting were approved 4-0 (Supervisor Ishida was absent during this vote.)
4. **Update on the Porterville Senior Center Relocation** – Ms. Silva said she had hoped there would be more information to report on the progress of the Porterville Center move. On September 17, 2013, the Porterville City Council voted to turn the Santa Fe Depot location over to its Parks and Leisure Department to operate as a senior center. On October 3, 2013, a 90-day notice was given to the current occupants, allowing them until January 2014 to vacate. Both C-SET and K/T AAA have expressed the desire to utilize the entire space Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with occasional evening and weekends use for a senior center. These organizations will work with the Parks and Leisure Department on an agreement identifying the repairs and improvements necessary in order to make the building move-in ready. No move-in date has been set at this time. Ms. Silva will continue to report back as K/T AAA gets additional information on a more concrete date. It was noted that no formal announcement has been presented to the senior group at Putnam as of this time.

Currently, there is a month-to-month agreement with the Comision Honorifica Mexicana-Americana, Inc. to continue renting the current space at 466 East Putnam in Porterville through the end of the year (2013). Supervisor Ennis said he was glad to see the City had place the Santa Fe Depot under the Parks and Leisure Department, since it is a neutral entity, which may make it easier to move forward with plans.

Mary Escarsega-Fechner, C-SET Director, said the prospect of moving to the new location is exciting. Her hope is that once a timeline is created for moving in, a visual design can be created for the seniors to show them layout possibilities. C-SET will work with Parks and Leisure Department to discuss how all the senior organization within the community can utilize the services and the center location for their meetings, and, hopefully, create additional activities for Baby Boomers who are now becoming seniors.

Supervisor Vander Poel encouraged C-SET staff to be inclusive in the planning process; for instance, to arrange for evening sessions, and/or day sessions throughout the community in order to get the perspective of different seniors. He suggested using the Advisory Council as well as meeting with other groups in the community to make sure we put together the building that everyone wants to see. He understands there will be a long “wish list,” and maybe not such a long list of financial resources available, but noted it is an important effort.

5. **Report on the Transition of Senior Services to C-SET** – Albert Cendejas, Senior Program Coordinator, reported on recent updates that have taken place, including the following:
 - Completed renovations at the St. Thomas church which houses the Goshen Senior Center.
 - The Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC,) provider of senior meals in Tulare County has stepped up to the plate to provide good food. Mr. Cendejas commented that seniors have given good feedback regarding the meals - even some of the biggest skeptics.
 - Every senior site now offers all services available through C-SET, including: weatherization and energy program applications, and tax return preparation assistance. Each site manager has been trained to better assist the seniors.

- In an effort to provide the best services, surveys have been taken at the sites regarding what the seniors wish to have at their sites. Five categories were identified: recreation, education, health, socialization, and “other”. The surveys have already provided helpful information and feedback. Computer classes were highly sought and will be brought to most of the sites as well as lessons on using other new technology. Requests include English classes, home repair, cooking and fitness classes and health promotion activities. Basic first aid training was also requested. Tai Chi classes have also been requested for better coordination and strength. Extended center hours were also wanted, especially at the Porterville site. Additionally, movie and music activities were requested. Mr. Cendejas said the idea is to make sure each site is active and welcoming to everyone in an attempt to get everyone involved, including inter-generational participants (i.e. children/grandchildren), and to implement many activities, community events, and celebrations such as Grandparents Day. Outreach efforts include advertising which will soon be on buses. Partner organizations include: AARP, HandsOn Central California, Hands in the Community, and Habitat for Humanity to name a few. Mr. Cendejas said C-SET is always looking for opportunities to link with partners in the community. Five homes have been “adopted” for *Make A Difference Day* - volunteers will help clean up interior and/or exterior areas of the home — whatever is needed by the senior occupant. During the holidays, the *Holiday Stocking Program* will distribute many stockings filled with essentials and treats to home-bound seniors.

There continues to be a need for transportation, not only to appointments, but for trips to the store and to do the little social things that most of us take for granted every day.

- Highlights include: Breast Cancer awareness campaigns, flu shots, diabetes, and hospice education. Going forward, focus is on getting the Wii fitness (and sports) programs up and running.

Ms. Escarsega-Fechner said that C-SET has a *Memorandum of Understanding* in place with Family Health Care Network, and will also be working with a dentist for additional services. Included will be nutrition information, education, fitness, and cooking classes at all the sites. A proposal has been submitted to the California Wellness Foundation on behalf of the centers to bring in added resources and to coordinated resources across the centers.

- 6. Report on Kings County Senior Services** – Sharon DeMasters, Director of Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA) provided an update on services available in Kings County. Ms. DeMasters thanked the View Road Apartment staff for hosting the day’s Governing Board and Advisory Council meetings. She distributed flip charts detailing services that are available through KCCOA, noting that there remains a strong connection between Tulare and Kings Counties. KCCOA is a non-profit organization that has been in business since 1970 and currently contracts with Kings County to provide senior services for the K/T AAA in Kings County, including help completing tax and Medi-Cal forms. KCCOA administers the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program for both Tulare and Kings Counties. KCCOA operates an adult day care in the city of Lemoore, which is licensed for 15, (daily average is 12 people). KCCOA partners with Kings Community Action. The *Generations* program includes both *Head Start* for children and the KCCOA Senior Adult Day Care located in the same building. The local military regularly contributes help to KCCOA and is currently helping with a remodel project. KCCOA partners with

many community organizations and it was noted that the Lemoore Rotary has volunteered to renovate the day care facility. Congregate and home-delivered meals are provided in Kings County by KCCOA, who subcontracts with Adventist Health Hospital for the meal programs. Legal services are provided through a contract with *Central California Legal Services*. KCCOA also contracts with Kings Behavioral Health to provide the Seniors Access for Engagement (SAFE) program - a mental health provision to the home-bound seniors and those at risk. Additionally, it operates the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) program for caregivers. During the holiday season, KCCOA distributes holiday stockings to the elderly.

During this discussion, a senior gentleman attendee addressed the Board - taking the opportunity of the meeting to lodge several complaints regarding issues he felt have not been adequately resolved by KCCOA. He voiced his frustration at not having had his complaints adequately resolved, saying that as an advocacy organization more effort needs to be directed to helping seniors find solutions to their problems.

7. **California Health Advocates-Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)** – This action item for the Board is a revenue agreement to accept HICAP SMP funding (\$4,000) which will be used to educate the public about Medicare fraud. David and Joyce Rugeroni are the two volunteers currently appointed to the program. Funding is used to alert the public, through presentations and counseling, to ways to protect identity, Medicare summary notices, and to avoid being the victim of Medicare fraud. The action requests the Board’s approval on the contract, retroactive to October 1, 2013. Moved by Supervisor Fagundes, 2nd by Supervisor Barba, the motion carried unanimously.
8. **California Department of Aging (CDA) Contract Amendment** – This is an information item regarding an amendment to the CDA Area Plan contract for One-Time-Only (OTO) funding, which although usually distributed in December, was distributed earlier – in part due to sequestration. With sequestration, there is a three-month budget and a nine-month budget, so OTO will be distributed twice this fiscal year. Only service areas that met the deadline for submitting closeouts were allowed to receive OTO funds. K/T AAA met that deadline. The funding increase amounted to \$25,172. Supervisor Vander Poel commended K/T AAA staff, saying he appreciates the effort and diligence displayed in meeting the required deadline which enabled the release of these additional funds to the K/T AAA.
9. **Provider Contract Amendments (OTO)** – Ms. Silva explained that amendments went out to provider contracts which essentially distributed the OTO money to our community providers. Once the signed amendments are returned to the K/T AAA, the Director will sign and distribute the funding to the following: Porterville Adult Day Services, Valley Caregiver Resource Center, City of Tulare, Community Services Employment Training, and Kings County.
10. **Advisory Council Report** – Council Chair, Cheri Taylor was unable to attend the day’s meeting, so as the Vice Chair, Sharon DeMasters reported out regarding Council matters. Ms. DeMasters reported that the Farmers Market Coupon program in the Kings/Tulare area had a redemption rate of 54.67 percent, for the Farmers Market Voucher program - the second highest redemption rate among California regions.
11. **Correspondence** – Ms. Silva noted that a copy of the follow-up letter sent out to K/T AAA

contractors regarding the government shutdown and its ramifications and potential impact, including delays of payment was included in the Board agenda packet. The original letter was followed up by direct phone contact with each contractor to see what strategies were to be implemented and what the priorities would be for each contractor. It was noted that all the contractors made it through the shutdown period with no adverse impact; however, close contact will remain through January 2014, and the situation will continue to be watched closely.

12. **Discussion of Actions to be Taken Regarding Personnel (Closed Session)** – Tim Lutz along with the Board members adjourned to a private room to discuss a closed session action item. Upon their return, the Board announced the resignation of Tim Lutz as K/T AAA Director. On a motion by Supervisor Vander Poel, seconded by Supervisor Fagundes, the Board announced it had accepted the resignation of Mr. Lutz and subsequently appointed Laura Silva as the new Director, by a unanimous vote. Ms. Silva thanked the Board for the “vote of confidence” shown to her by the appointment. Supervisor Ishida commented that Mr. Lutz has been promoted within the County in another capacity. Supervisor Vander Poel thanked Mr. Lutz for the great job he has done during his tenure as Director. Mr. Lutz said it had been a pleasure serving as the K/T AAA Director and that he both appreciates and will miss his experience working with the Aging Services.
13. **Adjourn** – Supervisor Barba moved the meeting be adjourned, Supervisor Ishida seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 11:02.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Silva
Secretary to the Board