 GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

 *To be approved on:* Minutes of the October 14, 2019, meeting

 January 27, 2020 Hanford Senior Center, View Road Apts. 602 9 ¼ Avenue, Hanford, CA 93230

**GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Richard Fagundes, Kings Co. – Dist. 5

Amy Shuklian, Tulare Co. – Dist. 3

Eddie Valero, Tulare Co. – Dist. 4

Pete Vander Poel, – Dist. 2

**GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:**

Craig Pedersen, Kings Co. – Dist. 4

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Cecilia Bobst

Marlene Chambers

Betsey Foote

Dan Fox

Ms. Bobbie Wartson

 **STAFF PRESENT:**

 Timothy Lutz, K/T AAA Interim Director,

 & Tulare Co. HHSA Director

 Anita Ortiz, Human Services Director

 Matthew Kredit, Administrative Specialist

 Israel Guardado, Staff Analyst

 Mark Kramer, K/T AAA Fiscal

 Marti Fleming, K/T AAA Fiscal

 Dori Silveria, K/T AAA HICAP Mgr.

 Bonnie Quiroz, Senior Advocate

 Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

 **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Albert Cendejas, CSET

1. **Call to Order** – Supervisor Shuklian, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Supervisor Shuklian welcomed Anita Ortiz, the new Tulare County Human Services Director.
2. **Introductions** – Attendance and introductions, as above.
3. **Board Member Comments** –Supervisor Shuklian welcomed Ms. Anita Ortiz the new Tulare CountyHuman Services Director. Additionally, Supervisor Vander Poel commented that he thinks it’s great that the K/T AAA has meetings out in the community in both counties and that it is a positive way to bring the Agency to the people. Supervisor Valero commented that the Hanford Senior Center was a beautiful facility with a welcoming environment.
4. **Public Comment**
* Ms. Bobbie Wartson announced that she had attended the September 25th, TACC meeting in Sacramento and there was a lot of good information reported about the State budget and its impact on the Area Agencies on Aging. There were also presentations on aging and she noted that the Senior Rally Day had been scheduled for May 5, 2020. This date conflicts with celebrations of Cinco de Mayo in many communities. To rectify this oversight, she wrote a statement expressing her concerns that many seniors will find this date a conflict and it will be problematic having the Senior Rally on May 5, suggesting it be changed to a different day. In response to this correspondence, the organizers of the Senior Rally Day changed it to May 11, 2020.
* Albert Cendejas reported on the upcoming Volunteer Income Tax Program VITA, saying that CSET is collaborating with different agencies to make this program work again this year. He noted CSET has started a recent collaboration with the Porterville Area Coordinating Council, which has been a great resource in providing additional food items for the seniors.
* Dori Silveria, manager for the K/T AAA Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP), announced that she had some 2020 Medicare calendars for distribution in conjunction with the Medicare Open Enrollment for the year, beginning, October 15 and continuing until December 7. Additionally, she said that HICAP staff were scheduled to be at the Hanford Senior Center the next day (Oct 15) in conjunction with a workshop presentation organized between the HICAP program and Congressman Cox’s office.
* Bonnie Quiroz noted that the 2020 Census will be starting in January. Some County staff will be involved in the census information collecting.
1. **Approval of Minutes of July 22, 2019** – A motion to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2019, meeting was made by Supervisor Valero and seconded by Supervisor Fagundes. On a motion and a second, the minutes were approved. Supervisor Pedersen was absent.
2. **California Dept. of Aging (CDA) Contract Amendment and One-Time-Only (OTO) Increased Funding – Area Plan-1920-15, Amendment #1**. This is an information item. Matthew Kredit, Administrative Specialist, said this amendment is for additional Ombudsman funding in the amount of $65,633. Ombudsman services for both counties are subcontracted to Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA). This amendment for contract AP-1920-15 was signed by the Interim K/T AAA Director, Timothy Lutz, and was submitted to CDA along with a budget.
3. **California Dept. of Aging Contract Amendment OTO Increased Funding for the Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP).** Mr. Kredit reported that this is a significant increase for the MSSP contract and is over the $100,000 threshold, thus requiring the Governing Board’s approval. The amendment adds $174,606 to the MSSP budget. Tim Lutz, K/T AAA Interim Director, commented that this is not a common thing and it is the first augmentation to the program since he has been familiar with it, so it is nice to see the increase in a program that helps to make homes ADA accessible for the client. On a motion by Supervisor Vander Poel, seconded by Supervisor Valero, the resolution passed unanimously. **(Vander Poel/Valero Res No. 19-012)**
4. **California Department of Aging** – **Area Plan Budget –** Mr. Kredit stated that every year the K/T AAA receives OTO funding for senior services, often for the Nutrition Program. This year, the Federal government gave the State an extension on getting it out to the Area Agencies; therefore, the K/T AAA has not received it. It is anticipated that the amount will be above the signing threshold of the Director, which will necessitate a November or December meeting added on to the Governing Board’s schedule. This extension also puts a strain on contractors who won’t have a lot of time to spend the additional money. He also noted there is a 30 day turn-around deadline once released to get the approved amendment back to the CDA. This request is for the approval of an additional meeting sometime in the upcoming months to accept the funding. It was noted by Supervisor Shuklian that the first week of December is not a good time, but otherwise staff can check with the Board of Supervisors’ staff as to the availability of the Supervisors. A motion to approve an additional meeting was proposed by Supervisor Vander Poel, seconded by Supervisor Fagundes and approved by unanimous vote. **(Vander Poel/Fagundes Res. No. 19-013)**
5. **Approval of the California Health Advocates (CHA) Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Contract –** Mr. Kredit explained that each year the California Health Advocates organization gives this contract to the K/T AAA to assist with work done with HICAP volunteers. This year the contract amount is slightly higher than previous years, at $3,500. Volunteers are trained to help recognize scams and other anomalies having to do with Medicare fraud. Ms. Dori Silveria said that the funds will be used for outreach, education, and to develop promotional items and fund material for counselors. A vote to approve was unanimous. **(Valero/Fagundes Res. No. 19-014)**
6. **Staff Reports**
* Israel Guardado reminded Board members that K/T AAA contracts will be available to read and review on the K/T AAA website (KTAAA.org). This is an effort for more transparency as well as cost savings from not having to print paper copies of the contracts. Matthew Kredit noted that Mr. Guardado designed the K/ TAAA website and being impressed with it, the California Department of Aging copied the design for its own website design.
* Mr. Guardado reported on the Homebound Senior Social Network (HSSN) which is run by Valley Caregiver Resource Center in Fresno. It is funded by Mental Health money through a $25,000 contract with K/T AAA. At an earlier meeting, Supervisor Vander Poel had asked for additional information on the program, especially in regard to the usage of the program. The idea behind the HSSN program is to provide socialization to homebound seniors that otherwise may be isolated. Initially, it begins with a home visit by staff. Participation averages about 3 seniors per week, with a total of 10 seniors signed on to the program.

Supervisor Vander Poel questioned the cost of the program in relation to the low number of clients it is serving. Mr. Lutz added that the program has been on “cruise control” for a couple of years. It was started eight to ten years ago in an effort to reach people that are isolated. Supervisor Vander Poel said he recognizes that purpose but with senior services dollars being snatched away and reduced, K/T AAA needs to be vigilant to make sure funding is spent to the best advantage and $8,000 per person might not be the best advantage. He said there are probably other ways to get more bang for the buck by looking at other options for that funding and just because a program has been in place for a while doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t be constantly re-evaluating to make sure it is effective. Mr. Lutz agreed that there should be a discussion about alternatives for more effective uses of the money, given the low enrollment.

* Bonnie Quiroz reported on K/T AAA’s Holiday Stocking Campaign which she said kicks off today (Oct 14th). Collection bins are placed throughout the County at different sites and in the offices of different business partners. She noted that, to date, Walmart has made a $1,000 donation and Family Health Care has donated $500. Donations are made through Friends of Tulare County.
1. **Advisory Council Report**
* Ms. Bobbie Wartson reported on the two new Advisory Council members, Marianne Osborne, appointed to represent Kings County and Mary Thomas, representing Tulare County.
* It was reported that each year several Advisory Council members attend the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) meeting and Allied Conference. This year, the Council Chair, Dr. David Wood will be attending the conference, which takes place in November 2019.

**Additional Comments:**

* Supervisor Valero shared that the recent Quail Park tour of theShannon Ranch senior living facility was great. A few Agency staff attended the tour also. He noted that this is another living opportunity for our elderly population in the Visalia area. Supervisor Shuklian noted the facility is geared to seniors with an active lifestyle. Many services are all inclusive.
* Bonnie Quiroz shared that the Suicide Prevention LOSS conference was a great conference and its organizers have received much good feedback. She noted that next year also, Tulare County is hosting another similar conference.
* K/T AAA Interim Director, Timothy Lutz apologized, but requested that the Closed Session item on the agenda be deferred until the next meeting. He said, in an abundance of caution, he preferred pulling the item due to it’s not having adequate explanation for its purpose. The item was pulled.

 **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy W. Lutz

K/T AAA Interim Director