 GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

*To be approved on:* Minutes of the May 13, 2019, meeting

July 22, 2019 at the Cutler-Orosi Senior Center ………………………………………………………12691 Ave 408, Cutler, CA 93615

**GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Craig Pedersen, Kings Co. – Dist. 4

Richard Fagundes, Kings Co. – Dist. 5

Amy Shuklian, Tulare Co. – Dist. 3

Eddie Valero, Tulare Co. – Dist. 4

Pete Vander Poel, – Dist. 2

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marlene Chambers

Dan Fox

Grace Henn

Ms. Bobbie Wartson

Dr. David Wood, Council Chair

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Timothy Lutz, HHSA Director

John Mauro, LCSW

Deputy HHS Director, Adult Services/PG

Jamie Sharma, Tulare Co. Aging Services Mgr.

Matthew Kredit, HHSA Budget Officer

Sjahari Pullom, Administrative Specialist

Israel Guardado, Staff Services Analyst

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

Bonnie Quiroz, Advocate

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Albert Cendejas, CSET

Mark Kramer, K/T AAA

Carolyn Davenport, Council applicant

Raquel Gomez, CSET

1. **Call to Order** – Supervisor Shuklian, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.
2. **Introductions** – Attendance and introductions, as above. Tim Lutz introduced John Mauro, the Tulare County Deputy Director overseeing Adult Protective Services/Public Guardian and In-Home Supportive Services. He also introduced Sjahari Pullom, the new Administrative Specialist for K/T AAA.
3. **Board Member Comments** –Supervisor Vander Poel said he is happy to be visiting the Cutler Orosi Senior Center.
4. **Public Comment**

* Albert Cendejas, CSET Senior Program Coordinator thanked the Governing Board for coming to the Cutler center for its meeting. On a different note, Mr. Cendejas said that the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program is now wrapped up. The program served 879 seniors.
* Mr. Cendejas reported that CSET was asked to make a presentation to the Fresno State Nursing Program. CSET has invited nursing students to do volunteering and training in conjunction with the home-bound seniors, assessments, and to encourage involvement with the senior programs.
* Supervisor Valero said he is partnering with Senator Melissa Hurtado as well as California Contractors State License Board to put on a free Senior Scam Stoppers seminar on Wednesday, May 29th at the Woodlake Community Center. Fliers were distributed.

1. **Approval of Minutes of March 18, 2019** – A motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2019, meeting was made by Supervisor Valero and seconded by Supervisor Pedersen, with Supervisor Fagundes abstaining. On a motion and a second, the minutes were approved.
2. **Discussions of Actions to be Taken Regarding Interim K/T AAA Directorship (Closed Session)** – Items of closed sessions can be items of personnel, real estate issues, or litigation issues, etc. that are the exceptions to the Brown Act requirements of open meetings). Results of a closed session are reported out at the discretion of the Chair. After convening in a closed session, Supervisor Vander Poel motioned to appoint Timothy Lutz as the K/T AAA Interim Director, effective May 13, 2019; Supervisor Pedersen seconded the motion which carried with a unanimous vote of approval. **(Vander Poel/Pedersen Res. No. 19-005 A)**
3. **Senior Day in the Park Report** – Albert Cendejas reported that the Senior Day in the Park event was a wonderful day, with nice sunny weather. There were over 500 cakes donated this year and 50 exhibitors providing resources for the attendees. This year’s event sponsors included Visalia Transit, TCAG, Culligan Water, Vapor Trailers, Salser and Dillard, Humana, Kaweah Delta, Family Healthcare Network, Wal-Mart, and Grocery Outlet. Between the County employees and CSET staff, 108 volunteers signed up to help. Additionally, approximately 75 students from Sycamore Valley school came to help. The youth assisted with serving meals and helping seniors. Staff from Cigna helped by “adopting” seniors to sponsor for the event. The event meal count was 1,281 served. To celebrate and commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the event, everyone got a slice of “Anniversary” cake. Supervisor Shuklian thanked CSET for taking on the organizing of the event.
4. **2018-2019 Grand Jury Final Report –** Mr. Lutz said he wanted to bring to the Board’s attention

that the Tulare County Grand Jury did a review of elder abuse and within that, it is requesting the K/T AAA to provide a response. Mr. Lutz said there were not necessarily negative findings in this report, but it is asking for the Agency responses – he said actually it is a timely and helpful thing in terms of the Grand Jury’s reason behind the investigation - to raise awareness of elder abuse with our population that continues as the “aging tsunami” – with that, elder abuse has been at the forefront of things being looked at closely. The Grand Jury identified the K/T AAA as one of the County’s principle advocates in promoting elder abuse awareness, and as such, it is asking for a response. The finding (agenda packet item #8) is really an inquiry as to if there are additional resources that can be found by agencies serving the elderly and that we (K/T AAA) should be considering those, and promoting them. He said it helps to bring us back to how can we work together with the Tulare County programs and promote something that would be impacting both Kings and Tulare Counties. It is known that as the population ages, there are more and more instances of reported elder abuse. The Sheriff’s department for Tulare Co. estimated that from 2017 to 2018, the increase was 23.8 percent in the number of elder abuse cases, which is significant. The hope is that more people are reporting it because of awareness, but there is still a large number of unreported incidences.

Mr. Lutz said the Area Agency on Aging will prepare its response and then will come to the Governing Board at its next meeting to ask for the Board’s approval of the response. Supervisor Vander Poel asked that when the Agency does respond, can it, as an effort of outreach and awareness for the community, break down information from the Sheriff’s office – break down the sources of elder abuse crimes – i.e. are they financial; what percentage is physical abuse, what percentage is neglect, etc. He said it is important as a public document so that anyone who reads the response can see, for instance, as a senior citizen, I need to be aware of my finances, or etc.

Supervisor Pedersen said from the standpoint of protocol, since the Agency is Kings/Tulare, does this get shared? He said if the Kings Grand Jury requests another report; will the Tulare Co. report get shared? Mr. Lutz said he would be happy to make sure it is shared with Kings County. He said when you look at the response level and the services, they are pretty similar across both Counties.

1. **Approval of K/T AAA Area Plan Update (APU) –** Israel Guardado, Staff Analyst reported that

the 4-year Area Plan (2016-2020) which outlines the service area and its goals is updated on a yearly basis. This year marks the last year of the plan, noting that next year a brand new 4-year plan will be created. The Area Plan is usually due to the State by May 1st each year. Each year the K/T AAA submits a draft to the State, pending its approval by the Governing Board. He noted that the Board agenda binder included a Summary of Changes to the plan. Most of the updates are routine, for instance demographic changes or roster updates, etc., with no out-of-the-norm changes. He noted a few decreases in service unit goals. For Community Education (reduced by 51 percent) and Information estimated audience was, and Information goals (reduced by 81 percent). These goals were based on previous years and were brought down to be more in line with the services that are actually being provided. The reach of the estimated audience was reduced in large part to the discontinuance of broadcasts on a radio station that had a large reach to its audience, but which has since shuttered, so that method of delivery is no longer available, and the goal therefore had to be adjusted. Overall, the reduction in services is a result of the reduction in the “estimated audience”. He said this is reported to the State as a non-registered service meaning that we expect the number has duplicates, (i.e. the same person received the service multiple times.)

In response to an inquiry from Supervisor Shuklian, Mr. Guardado said the radio station previously used, although taken over by a different company, can eventually re-establish the broadcasts.

Supervisor Vander Poel said that one other double digit decrease he wanted to bring attention to, is the 19.2 decline in respite services. Mr. Guardado said that was again bringing the services down into line with what is more viable. He said these projected services are at a more reasonable rate. Supervisor Vander Poel motioned for approval, with Supervisor Fagundes seconding the action. The motioned carried with no opposition. **(Vander Poel/Fagundes Res. No. 19-005)**

1. **Approval of the CDA Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Contract –** This information item is to report Amendment 1 to this CDA contract. MIPPA is an outreach program aimed at increasing enrollment of low-income beneficiaries for Medicare. In October of 2018, the Board accepted the original contract in the amount of $58,524. This amendment increases the original funding to $71,732. The increase is due to carryover from previous year funds and baseline adjustments. The total amount is for a three-year period and it is currently in year one of the contract, moving into year two in July, 2019. The K/T AAA Director is able to accept and sign for these funds.
2. **Approval of the FY19/20 California Department of Aging (CDA) Grant Award Contracts –** Matthew Kredit reported that there are three grants before the Board for approval. He noted that the Older Americans Act/Area Plan funding is up by a little more than 10 percent (2.25 million) compared to last year. He noted that the Title V contract was reduced and has continued to drop by about $10,000 each year. The current grant amount is $91,625. California needs to adjust the number of seniors placed in job positions due to the minimum wage increase. The grant has approximately 8 training slots for this program.

The Multi-purpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) contact is holding steady at $698,455. This grant has remained consistent at this level for the last several years. The program helps keeps seniors in their homes versus being placed in a nursing home. Currently, 162 seniors across both counties are benefited by this program. It was asked that the Board approve the FY19/20 fiscal year grants. There was one combined motion for the acceptance of all three contracts given by Supervisor Pedersen, and seconded by Supervisor Valero. The vote passed unanimously. **(Pedersen/Valero Res. No. 19-006)**

1. **Contract Authorities for FY19/20 –** Mr. Kredit reported on this information item that goes along with the contracts accepted from the CDA in item # 11. He pointed out the Title V funding at $84,295. A portion of the Title V funding ($91,625) is retained by K/T AAA for administration. He noted that the Prevention & Early Intervention (PEI) funding in the amount of $25,000 is Mental Health (MH) funding. He said that we have partnered with Valley Caregiver Resource Center (VCRC) in Fresno which does a call-in line to engage in discussions about various topics. The funding is not part of the Area Plan funding. Provider contract funding will be, tentatively, as follows:

* Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA) $ 602,826
* City of Tulare $ 110,240
* Community Services & Employment (CSET) $ 1,152,492
* Community Services and Employment TV (CSET) $ 84,295
* Valley Adult Day Services $ 84,606
* Valley Caregiver Resource Center (VCRC) $ 84,606
* Prevention & Early Intervention (VCRC)\* $ 25,000
* \*Mental Health funding for Homebound Senior Social Network (HSSN)

1. **Staff Reports**

* Contract availability on the K/T AAA website – Tim Lutz mentioned that having contracts posted to the K/T AAA website in the future is timely considering the thick Board agenda packet prepared for the day’s Governing Board meeting, which includes multiple contracts that are many pages thick. To make the information more accessible to the public and to alleviate the need for so many paper copies, it is proposed that supporting documents will be available as PDF documents, electronically, instead of in paper copy. This may require some revisions or upgrading of the software, but would simplify access to the documents or relevant documents. Moving forward, it is hoped this improvement will be implemented relatively soon.

Supervisor Pedersen said that Kings County had purchased IPADS to facilitate its Supervisors being able to access documents and simplify the process.

Mr. Lutz said an added benefit is transparency. Typically, paper copies are not provided to the public, so the website will provide an avenue for the public to have access to what is being presented before the Governing Board. Supervisor Valero questioned if the whole agenda packet would be online, or if it would be only the contracts. Mr. Lutz said that as much as possible it would be nice to have the information electronically, but there will always be an agenda provided.

* Several activities and events were announced for Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month.
* K/T AAA has received its allotment of Farmers Market coupons for the 2019 season and distribution will begin soon. Coupons are from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and divided between Kings and Tulare Counties on a 23/77 percent split.
* Ms. Sharma reported that Veterans Opportunity Day was a successful event with 200 attendees. She noted that many veterans have taken advantage of expanded outreach efforts.
* Sjahari Pullom was introduced to the Board and meeting attendees. Mr. Pullom has been hired as the new K/T AAA (Aging) Administrative Specialist, a position formerly held by Matthew Kredit.

1. **Advisory Council Report** –Dr. David Wood, the Advisory Council Chair said there are still quite a few vacancies on the Council and the members continue to work to recruit new members.
2. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy W. Lutz

K/T AAA Interim Director