 ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

(of) January 23, 2017

Tulare County Board of Supervisors Building

2800 W. Burrel, Conference Room A/B

Visalia, CA 93291

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marlene Chambers

Benjamin Cordova

Alicia Garcia m

Elizabeth Holliday

Steve Nelsen

Aime Rojas

Bobbie Wartson

Suzann Wray

Dr. David Wood

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mary Krieg-Vasquez

Sharon Lamagno

Marsha Calhoun

**MEMBERS ABSENT (Continued):**

Kyle Melton

Grace Schraa

Maggie Woodhouse

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Laura Silva, Director

Bonnie Quiroz, Client Advocate

Matthew Kredit, Administrative Specialist

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

Nancy Aldaoud, Administrative Aide

Israel Guardado, Analyst

**GUESTS & ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Albert Cendejas, SCET, Senior Services

Mary Escarsega-Fechner, CSET Director

1. **Call to Order** – Dr. David Wood, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and noted the meeting is recorded for accuracy of minutes.
2. **Introductions of Guests, Staff, and Council Members** – Introductions were given by Council members, staff, and guests. Dr. Wood and Laura Silva welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Dr. Wood commented that the Council work is an example of democracy in action and he thanked attendees for their participation, noting that work done locally is important.
3. **Public Comments** – There were no public comments.
4. **Approval of Minutes** – The Chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2016. Suzann Wray motioned to approve the minutes; Steve Nelsen seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.
5. **Announcements and Correspondence**

* Dr. Wood said he wanted to express his delight and appreciation that Ben Cordova, Steve Nelsen, and Aime Rojas were appointed, or re-appointed in the case of Mr. Cordova, by the Governing Board at its meeting earlier in the day.
* Albert Cendejas announced that CSET will begin doing its tax preparation services out in the community beginning in Cutler-Orosi, Visalia, Tulare, and Porterville on February 4th, every Saturday until April 15th. He said once their calendars are completed, the service will also be available at the seven senior centers.
* Bobbie Wartson announced that Kings County (KCCOA) will also have tax preparation services available for seniors in Kings County twice, weekly at the Armona Senior Center.
* Laura Silva announced that K/T AAA and CSET have decided on a date for Senior Day in the Park, which will be May 12, 2017. K/T AAA will be working closely with CSET this year; as CSET has taken the lead on more of the event’s organizing.
* Council member, Steve Nelsen announced that by the end of the month he will have presented Alzheimer’s/cognitive information to all the senior centers in Tulare County, noting that this was arrange with the help of CSET staff. Dinuba and the City of Tulare are the only two remaining centers left to cover and he will be contacting them to schedule presentations.

Dr. Wood commented that this is an important idea that because each Council member has respective expertise in different areas, and to share that and to be of service to the community in that way is important and part of being an active Advisory Council with significant presence and visibility.

Ms. Silva noted that she had the opportunity for Mr. Nelson to make that presentation to In-Home Supportive Services program Advisory Council of the Tulare County Aging Services and that it was very much appreciated. She commented that it would be a good idea to have him on the agenda for the K/T AAA Advisory Council also to make the presentation for the Advisory Council.

1. **Milestone Updates –** The Chair asked each member if he or she had updates to announce. Ben Cordova commented that all the current rain the area is finally getting is a blessing to our local population, and to see all the reservoirs full of water, especially with all the different markets and farming concerns in our area. Mr. Cordova said he was inspired by today’s conversation about the activities taking place in all the communities and how important working together is, especially because many of our local communities are rural.

Dr. Wood noted that if there is any issued that comes to the fore concerning problems attending the meetings or assisting in participation (i.e. difficulty with access or mobility, difficulty with vision, or hearing, etc.) on the Council that it should be brought to the attention of the Chair. This comment was made in connection to the issue of several members on the Council having difficulty hearing speakers at the meetings. To help resolve this, staff has worked on providing support to the Council by having a sound system available for its meetings.

Council member Aime Rojas, who works with Gentiva Hospice, said she has worked with CSET to arrange for in-services presentations at senior centers to educated people on services and to offer help. This also facilitates collaboration with CSET, for instance, if a client needs other services such as home-delivered meals.

Council member Steve Nelsen said that when he makes presentation to groups he feels he is the one getting benefited, because it is a chance to offer help to clients who are often stretched in their capacity to cope. He said by presenting at senior center he came to realize that many seniors do not have medical directives completed or don’t have forms completed to enable them to make medical decisions for their loved ones. In this connection, he has presented to Mr. Cendejas those medical directive forms to disseminate out to the centers.

Council member Elizabeth Holliday said that January marks the second anniversary of the Three Rivers Alzheimer’s relief and Dementia Care support group, and that this is a milestone for them.

Council member and KCCOA Director, Bobbie Wartson said her family recently had several challenges with family member illnesses in addition to a number of vacancies at the KCCOA which she was responsible to maintaining. However, she is hopeful that these situations will be resolved.

Bonnie Quiroz announced that she has site visits at several of the Tulare County senior centers for the Behavioral Health screenings.

Council member Suzann Wray said it is ironic that Mr. Nelsen is going to the Dinuba center for an Alzheimer’s presentation because there are several senior clients and volunteers attending that center who are dealing with issues precipitated by that disease.

Nancy Aldaoud, K/T AAA Administrative Aide commented on the Senior Holiday Stocking Drive in December, saying it was very successful and was appreciated by all the seniors that the K/T AAA was able to reach. She noted that the project received a lot of donations from community partners.

Matthew Kredit recapped his presentation from the Governing Board meeting earlier, reviewing the 2016 K/T AAA events and projects. He noted there a good numbers for the Congregate and Home-Delivered Meal (HDM) Programs provided thorough CSET – he sighted a correction to the HDM meal count, which is up to 409.

Dr. Wood said he is pleased there is a full complement of Council members and said that there will soon be a Council Membership Manual for each member, which will be distributed at the upcoming retreat. In addition, the Council will revisit the Bylaws and also consider ways to continue recruiting interested people to participate on the Council, including the recruitment of alternate members, especially for quorum purposes. He also commented on the increase collaboration between community organizations and partners, including Dinuba Senior center and the senior group in Three Rivers, Aging in the Community. He said part of the purpose of the Council is to be “information brokers”. He also mentioned on February 8, he is the invited guest of the Tule River Tribe to its Elder Council. He said he is also looking forward to collaborating with the Tachi Yokut tribe in Kings County.

Laura Silva announced that two former Council members, Stella Ybarra and Fern Haller had passed away in 2016. She said both were fierce advocates for seniors and contributed tremendous work during their tenures on the Council.

CSET Director, Mary Escarsega-Fechner said she wanted to report that in November, Southern Cal-Edison contacted CSET requesting them to apply for funding that was available for senior services and the senior centers. The grant amount was $15,000 and in early January CSET received notice that the grant would be awarded. This will allow CSET to add more meals to the Nutrition programs and add additional support to the Senior Day in the Park as well as some other projects, including transportation.

Albert Cendejas commented that CSET continues to work with the City of Farmersville to support that city and its seniors. The plan is to open up an additional senior center in that community.

Alicia Garcia said that she will be going with CSET staff to some of the senior centers to get a better idea of what the K/T AAA does and how the senior centers operate. She is also in training with the K/T AAA HICAP program, which is the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program.

Council member Marlene Chambers said she has been on the Council for several years, noting that her husband was instrumental in getting the Council started and so she has incorporated it into her life to help carry on his legacy. She also serves on the Commission on Aging Board, Kings County In-Home Supportive Services Board, and Hanford Senior Citizens. Additionally, she drives Kings County veterans to medical appointments and to the Air Base.

On another note, Dr. Wood said he will look into the possibility of getting business cards for Council members who would like them. In this connection, it is important to let seniors know that the Council is created, in part, to get information from the seniors and bring it to the Governing Board. This is part of the function of the Council.

1. **2017 Schedule of Meetings –** A tentative schedule of meetings for the balance of the year was distributed. The scheduled dates are according to the previous time table of monthly meetings, which was generally the third Monday of the month. Ms. Tidwell commented that when the Council met monthly, it often met at the senior centers, between Kings and Tulare Counties. The schedule also includes the Governing Board meetings and dates (with asterisk.) The other meetings are up for discussion and can be changed according to the desire of the Council members. Dr. Wood, as Chair, said the Council meetings will mirror the Governing Board meetings on May 15, July 17, and October 16, 2017. He said it is important for the Council to be available for the Board and for the Board to have access to Council members. The March meeting will also be in Visalia, along with the scheduled Governing Board date. A Doodle poll will be sent out to arrange for further dates. There will be follow up to confirm the remaining monthly dates to arrive at a workable schedule.

The Chair entertained a motion for the 2017 meetings, that those dates coinciding with the Governing Board meetings will be dates that the Council also agrees for its meetings for those months. Marlene Chambers motioned to said proposal; Ben Cordova seconded it. The motion passed.

1. **Membership Follow Up** – The Membership Committee Chair was not present at the meeting. However, Christine Tidwell, said there are several members who have been regularly not attending meetings and asked whether the Membership Committee needs to follow up with those members on their attendance, especially in accordance with the criteria outlined in the Bylaws. It was noted that in order for Council business to move forward, it is essential for there to be a quorum at meetings.
2. **Advisory Council Retreat** – Dr. Wood entertained a motion to have the Council Retreat on February 27, 2017. Mr. Nelsen motioned for approval of this date; Ms. Chambers seconded it, which was decided by unanimous vote.

Dr. Wood said he would like to include an overview of the Area Agencies on Aging – its history and mandates, State and Federal funding, etc. He also would like to speak about the CSL and its representatives (Dr. Wood and Sharon Lamagno), C4A, and several other State and regional meetings that Council members could be attending. Additionally, Dr. Wood said he is attending an inter-disciplinary meeting in regard to the Mental Health Committee. Other memberships can also be up for discussions; i.e., the transportation committee, etc. Ms. Silva said the revised Orientation Manual will cover a lot of information on the purpose and structure of the Area Agencies on Aging. These will be available prior to the meeting (per Mr. Cordova’s request). Two to three hours will be discussion parallel to the content of the Orientation binder and further discussion will be more open ended. The retreat will be approximately 6 hours, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch catered in. (This date was later changed to March 20, 2017)

Dr. Wood said it will be an important next two years considering the present Congress, and that it will fall upon the Council to be sensitive to how Medicare, Social Security, and the Affordable Care Act are approached by the current Congress because it will have dramatic impact specifically upon people that the Council is tasked to represent.

1. **Staff Reports** – Laura Silva reported that the Stocking Project delivered 415 stockings during the holiday drive (the original target was 380). Staff sought out other isolated seniors who would benefit from the social visit. She also mentioned that K/T AAA will be issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Senior Services in Tulare County and noted that some Council members may be contacted to participate on the evaluation committee for the RFP.

Israel Guardado, K/T AAA Analyst said that the K/T AAA will be creating the Area Plan Update soon and as part of that, the CDA requires the Advisory Council to review it. This is something that should be kept on the radar, especially for the Area Plan/Budget/Contract (ABC) committee. Once the initial Update is completed it will need to be review by the Committee. The document is due to the State (CDA) by May 1, 2017.

1. **Additional Member Comments** – None
2. **Adjourn –** Meeting ended 12:09 p.m.