 GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

*To be approved on:* Minutes of the May 17, 2021, meeting

July 19, 2021 Tele-conference

**GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Craig Pedersen, Kings Co. – Dist. 4

Larry Micari, Tulare Co. – Dist. 1 (delayed arrival)

Eddie Valero, Tulare Co. – Dist. 4

Richard Fagundes, Kings Co. – Dist. 5

Pete Vander Poel, – Dist. 2

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Bobbie Wartson, Chair & KCCOA Director

Dan Fox, Vice Chair, Adv Council

Betsey Foote

Mary Thomas

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Anita Ortiz, K/T AAA Director, HS Director

John Mauro, Adult Services, Deputy Director

Dayna Wild, Division Mgr., Adult Srvcs.

Ms. Jamie Sharma, Mgr., Aging Services

Bonnie Quiroz, Senior Advocate

Christa Cardoza, Admin Specialist, Aging

Israel Guardado, Staff Analyst

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Albert Cendejas, CSET Senior Services

Raquel Gomez, CSET

Rosemary Caso, United Way, Tulare Co.

1. **Call to Order** – Chair, Supervisor Valero called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. **Introductions** – Attendance and introductions announced by Ms. Sharma who called roll, reading the Zoom meeting attendee list, as above.
3. **Board Member Comments** – None.
4. **Public Comment**

* Albert Cendejas, CSET, reported that the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is wrapping up, with today (May 17) being the last day. He said for those not owing taxes, they can still connect with VITA volunteers, if they choose to get their taxes done.

On another note, Mr. Cendejas said CSET is serving 1,500 meals every day, which is quite a feat, but the determination is there to keep the seniors protected.

* Ms. Bobbie Wartson, Director of the Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA), reported that Advisory Council member Marlene Chambers had recently fallen and broken her hip. Best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Ms. Chambers.

Ms. Wartson announced that the Tachi Palace Casino charity golf tournament this year had 4 teams at $2,500/team, with KCCOA as the beneficiary recipient.

1. **Approval of Minutes of March 25, 2021** – A motion to approve the minutes of the March 2021, meeting was made by Supervisor Vander Poel and seconded by Supervisor Fagundes. On a motion and a second, the minutes were approved. Supervisor Micari was not present.
2. **Approval of FY21/22 California Department of Aging (CDA)Grant Contracts** – Israel Guardado presented this “routine” action item of CDA revenue contracts for approval. He noted that there are not many changes to the contracts from last year. The Area Plan contract (AP-2122-15) has a six percent increase (approximately $140,000). The Title V contract had an approximately $50 increase; the MSSP contract is unchanged. The HICAP contract has a 20 percent increase in funding, about $55,000. This is funding to staff a full time Volunteer Coordinator position - at least for fiscal years 2021/22 and 2022/23. Mr. Guardado said this is presented to the Board for its approval to accept these funds. Supervisor Pedersen moved to accept the funds; Supervisor Vander Poel seconded the motion; which passed unanimously. **(Pedersen/Vander Poel Res. No. 21-004)**

* **(Older American (Area Plan) Grant**

*Contract AP-2122-15 in the amount of $2,685,489*

* **Senior Community Service and Employment Training Program (Title V)**

*Contract TV-2122-15 in the amount of $91,678*

* **Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP)**

*Contract number MS-2122-33 in the amount of $873,061*

* **Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy (HICAP)**

*Contract numberHI-2122-15 in the amount of $326,429*

\*Supervisor Micari arrived to the meeting at this point.

1. **Request for Proposal (RFP) –** Mr. Guardado reported that the K/T AAA Title V contract (Senior Community Service & Employment Training) went out for RFP. The RFP required a Letter of Intent to be submitted by April 16, 2021. CSET, the current provider of Title V services, was the only organization that submitted a Letter of Intent. Therefore, Mr. Guardado asked the Board to approve a non-competitive bid award to CSET. On a motion by Supervisor Fagundes, seconded by Supervisor Pedersen, the motion carried unanimously. **(Fagundes/Pedersen Res. No. 21-005)**
2. **Approval of K/T AAA Area Plan Update –** Mr. Guardado explained that this year’s Update changes are extremely light in comparison with other years because of the pandemic. There are some changes concerning projections and estimates for senior populations and poverty levels, as well as any changes in Board members and officers, but regarding service unit, and objectives changes are minimal. He said the State has allowed a lot of flexibility and has recognized the difficulty in planning due to the pandemic situation. K/T AAA has submitted a draft, which is due to the State by May 1st. and once approved by the Board the final will be submitted. Supervisor Vander Poel made a motion to approved the Area Plan Update; Supervisor Fagundes seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously 5 to 0. **(Vander Poel/Fagundes Res. No. 21-006)**

**Contract Authorities for FY 21/22 –** Mr. Guardado said the revenue funds being accepted in agenda item #6 are allocated to the K/T AAA service providers as follows. He noted this is an information item, only, and at the July meeting, it will be brought to the Board as an action item.

Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA) $ 754,589

City of Tulare $ 193,820

Community Services & Employment (CSET) $ 1,349,739

Community Services and Employment TV (RFP bid) $ 84,344

Valley Adult Day Services (VADS) $ 84,262

Valley Caregiver Resource Center (VCRC) $ 84,262

Prevention & Early Intervention (VCRC)\* $ 25,000

1. **Amendment #2 to FY20/21 CDA Area Plan Contract –** Mr. Guardado said the amendment for this contract only affects the term (extension of the availability of the State dollars); it does not affect the dollar amount. The K/T AAA Director, Anita Ortiz, has the authority to sign for amendments, which she has done. This was presented as an information item.
2. **Staff Reports**

* World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, June 15 – Dayna Wild presented information on World Elder Abuse Awareness, which is observed the entire month of June as a time for increased elder abuse awareness and to bring light to the topic. A kickoff event will be held at Government Plaza with the planting of 866 flags to represent the number of reported abuse cases. In this connection, the Agency has created a video that was also shown to the Board, narrated in both Spanish and English. A flyer was also created to raise awareness. Raquel Gomez from CSET asked if any of the information will be available in Portuguese, which it currently is not.
* Senior Day Rally Participation, May 4, 2021 – Ms. Jamie Sharma reported that she and Bobbie Wartson had given a presentation on senior nutrition at the Senior Rally Day. This event, sponsored by the California Senior Legislature, brings together leaders and legislators concerned with senior issues, especially in hopes to encourage increased support.
* Farmers Market Coupons 2021 Season –Bonnie Quiroz, the Aging Services Senior Advocate, reported that the California Department of Agriculture has notified K/T AAA that it will be receiving some senior nutrition coupon vouchers this year, although at a reduced amount. (Last year there were no coupons available.) She will be working with farmers to deliver fresh fruits and vegetables to those seniors that were the most highly impacted by COVID. A portion of the coupons are also given to KCCOA for the Kings County seniors. Supervisor Valero asked if coupons will be available at the Dinuba Farmers Market. Ms. Quiroz said that because of the limited number of coupons this season, the distribution will not be at the markets, this year.
* Senior Nutrition Update – Anita Ortiz, K/T AAA Director, reported that currently, the Senior Nutrition situation is in a good spot for 2021-22, but that she and several others from various community organizations have begun planning for the “what if” challenges, if funding support is not continued. Ms. Ortiz brought this to the Board to make it aware of possible future challenges.
* Aging Together, May 11, 2021 – This is a regional consortium attended by several K/T AAA and community partners and any legislators that were available to attend - to discuss senior issues.
* Letter of Support, SB 441 – It was reported that a letter of support on behalf of the K/T AAA was submitted by the its Director in support of SB 441 – Geriatric Medicine Investment Act.
* Vaccine Update – Ms. Sharma reported that the effort to get seniors, age 65+ ,vaccinated was going well. She noted that help from several community partners, including staff from CSET and United Way were great in helping to get trusted members from the different communities to help in getting the message out. She also noted that there are only 18 people left on the Home Bound Program that have not been vaccinated.
* Digital Divide – Dayna Wild reported that Ms. Sharma had earlier received an $80,000 grant from the Suicide Prevention Task Force that will be used to help close the “digital divide” for seniors. K/T AAA will be partnering with AT & T for IPADs and data service, as well as free training for seniors on how to use the devices. The program will focus initially on those seniors that are most isolated.

1. **Advisory Council Report –** Council Chair, Bobbie Wartson said the Council meetings have been suspended up to this time due to COVID, so there are no reports. However, she said the first Council meeting since the beginning of the pandemic began will be convening today following the Governing Board meeting.
2. **Adjourn –** On a motion by Supervisor Fagundes; seconded by Supervisor Micari, the meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 10:46 a.m. There were no abstentions.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Ortiz, K/T AAA Director

Ms. Jamie Sharma, Aging Services Manager (designee)