 GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

*To be approved on:* Minutes of the October 19, 2020, meeting

January 25, 2021 Tele-conference

**GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Craig Pedersen, Kings Co. – Dist. 4

Amy Shuklian, Tulare Co. – Dist. 3

Eddie Valero, Tulare Co. – Dist. 4

Pete Vander Poel, – Dist. 2

**GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Richard Fagundes, Kings Co. – Dist. 5

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Bobbie Wartson, KCCOA Director

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Mauro, Deputy HHS Director

Ms. Jamie Sharma, Mgr., Aging Services

Bonnie Quiroz, Senior Advocate

Israel Guardado, Staff Analyst

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Albert Cendejas, CSET

1. **Call to Order** – Vice Chair, Supervisor Valero called the meeting to order at 10:04. Meeting temporarily delayed allowing for Supervisor Pedersen’s arrival.
2. **Introductions** – Attendance and introductions, as above.
3. **Board Member Comments** –None
4. **Public Comment** –Albert Cendejas, reported an update on the senior meals served, numbering 27,000 meals per month. Additionally, CSET is supporting seniors with additional pantry items. He also said that rental and mortgage assistance program inquiries are experiencing high call volumes. Callers are being directed to the CSET website as the fastest way to obtain service and that the Information and Assistance lines (I & A) have begun operating 7 days a week.
5. **Approval of Minutes of July 13, 2020** – A motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2020, meeting was made by Supervisor Shuklian and seconded by Supervisor Vander Poel. On a motion and a second, the minutes were approved 4 to 0.
6. **Approval of the California Department of Aging (CDA) FY20/21 Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Contract ($32,103)** – Israel Guardado reported that this funding is for the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) and is used for the Volunteer Coordinator position and clerical, with 100 percent of the funds used for direct services. The contract has an unusual timeline, with its term running from October 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021. The contract allocates $32,103 to HICAP. **(Shuklian/Vander Poel Res. No. 20-016)**

1. **CDA Contract Amendments to the Title V/Senior Community Service Employment Program (Contract TV-2021-15) –** Mr. Guardado said this is an information item regarding an amendment to the Title V (senior employment) program. It is a $59 increase that will be allocated to CSET, which operates the program for the K/T AAA. The K/T AAA Director has the authority to sign amendments and as such it has been signed and accepted by the Director.
2. **CDA One-Time-Only (OTO) Increased Funding –** Mr. Guardado said this is more of an “in case” there is a need to accept OTO funds. The usual timeline for OTO funding to be released is October, but in 2019, it was released in January (of 2020). Similarly, this fiscal year’s OTO funds have still not been released. This is a proposal that if it is released and it is above the threshold that the K/T AAA Director can normally accept (10%), which was the case last year – this resolution gives the Director authority to accept the funds if they become available in November or December, when there is no scheduled Governing Board meeting. It was noted that this is in anticipation of possible events. On a motion by Supervisor Vander Poel and seconded by Supervisor Pedersen, the motion carried with no abstentions. **(Vander Poel/Pedersen Res. No. 20-017)**
3. **Staff Reports**

**COVID Updates: Contract and Program**

* Jamie Sharma reported on several Covid related items, including that the K/T AAA is now working with Proteus using Tulare County Cares Act funding in the amount of $50,000 in connection with the Healthy Harvest Program. In addition, the K/T AAA contracts with CSET and the United Way will each be increased by $5,000 to help with increased staffing needs.

Additionally, K/T AAA is now partnering with the Community Care Coalition (CCC) and will be sitting in with that collaborative group. Ms. Sharma noted that requests have come through the K/T AAA from Congressman Nunes and others having to do specifically with senior Assisted Living Facilities, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Adult Day Care facilities, etc. wanting to know what kind of guidance we can provide in terms of re-opening and other issues. She wanted to make the Board aware that the K/T AAA (Aging) is now participating in weekly meetings that bring all these senior living facilities, Public Health, etc. together to have conversations in order to make sure everyone is on the same page and has the most current, consistent information.

* **CDA Monitoring**: Israel Guardado reported that the CDA is conducting a monitor of the Older Americans Act (OAA) programs, both fiscal and program during the week of October 19 through 22, 2020. This usually happens every 4 years – CDA staff conduct on-site interviews with K/T AAA and contracted provider staff. This year, due to Covid, it is being done virtually. He noted this is a monitoring, not an audit. Any discrepancies that CDA finds with K/T AAA’s practices or business procedures, K/T AAA will have the opportunity to address immediately or create a Corrective Action Plan to rectify. Ms. Sharma added that in connection with the monitoring, CDA will meet with Supervisor Fagundes, as the Chair of the Governing Board, and Ms. Bobbie Wartson, as Chair of the Advisory Council.
* **SQF Fire Complex**: John Mauro, Tulare Co. Deputy Director for Adult Services, reported that several Tulare County staff are supporting the fire center in Porterville and the hotline. K/T AAA is involved to ensure that families affected by the fires are getting the support they need and also there is collaboration with United Way for that purpose. It was noted that FEMA had approved relief funding recently and will also have a presence in Porterville. Albert Cendejas (CSET), reported that CSET also has a senior staff response team working in Porterville Wednesday through Sunday to assist those affected by the fire.
* Bobbie Wartson, KCCOA Director, reported that Kings County now has 400 seniors on its meals program. September provided 13,00 meals at 7 meals per week delivered. She noted that the meal provider of senior meals in Kings had changed from Adventist Health to Economic Opportunity Commission (EOC) Food Services. The results of a recent survey about the change indicated that senior clients were satisfied with the meals provided. In addition, she said KCCOA also does a separate food distribution effort, which in October served 564 people at the food bank, of which 275 were seniors. Ms. Wartson also noted that KCCOA will be doing holiday stockings for the Kings County homebound seniors.
* Bonnie Quiroz, the Tulare County Senior Advocate, reported on the commodities distribution and food give-away event held in the community of Traver at the Traver Church of God on October 8, 2020. This was a K/T AAA sponsored event, in partnership with several community partners, including Kings County, Visalia Unified School District, and Dinuba Child Abuse Prevention. 228 families came through the line for items, including rice, eggs, potatoes, yogurt, milk and meat. Face masks were also distributed with “stay safe” information fliers. Ms. Wartson said that Kings County donated some items to the drive and noted that both counties have been working well together to make sure seniors in both counties are getting needed assistance.
* Supervisor Valero asked if anyone had followed up on an anticipated donation of food coolers from Congressperson Hurtado’s office - to be available for seniors. Ms. Sharma said that she would follow up on it.
* Ms. Sharma reported that she and Angie Arroyo now sit on a Community/County Collaboration panel in part to continue to get the word out about K/T AAA programs and County In-home Supportive Services (IHSS) services. Additionally, the CA Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) has pulled together work groups focused on different topics, including: Senior Nutrition, Social Isolation and Loneliness, and the Digital Divide. Each group has written a position paper (white paper) which includes links to resources and data. These are available on the C4A website, or she can forward the links to anyone interested. She also said C4A now has developed a work group between Behavioral Health and Aging. This will mean regularly meeting with the California Behavioral Health Association to have conversations about how to strengthen partnership, especially as it relates to topics of concern, such as increased suicidal ideation and making sure that older adults are being diagnosed properly and not lumped into a “dementia” category. She said that she will be keeping the Board apprised of this partnership.
* Ms. Sharma said that C4A will be hosting a 1-day virtual conference on December 3, 2020. She extended an invitation to anyone interested in attending and noted that it will be packed with great information.
* John Mauro gave an update on the Senior Holiday Stocking Campaign for 2020, noting that in the COVID environment, it will look different than in past years; and the numbers of people being served has grown dramatically from hundreds to perhaps many hundreds or a thousand. Aging Services is working closely with CSET to deliver something to seniors for the holiday - perhaps different than holiday stockings; for instance, warm blankets.
* Ms. Sharma reported that there is a proposal from the California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) that should be brought to their attention. The CWDA is recommending the re-structure of Area Agencies on Aging, statewide. The proposal is that every AAA be housed under its respective county’s Social Services Department. Many AAA are already situated this way, but for the ones that are either Joint Powers or Non-profits, this will pose some need for thought and preparation. She said that she can share the document that came from the CWDA so supervisors can read it. The reasoning behind the suggestion is that it will provide incredible partnerships for the AAAs when housed with Social Services. She noted that K/T AAA already has good partnerships and collaborations with Mental Health, Adult Protective Services, Public Guardian, Public Health, etc., but for many AAA those connections are not as strong. She noted, for K/T AAA there would be some logistics to figure out.

1. **Advisory Council Report** – Council Chair, Bobbie Wartson said the Council meetings have been suspended at this time due to COVID, so there are no reports. She closed with a joke.
2. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:41am.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Ortiz, K/T AAA Director

Ms. Jamie Sharma, Aging Services Manager (designee)