



GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

To be approved on:
May 12, 2025

Minutes of March 17, 2025,
Connections Bldg., 3249 W. Noble, Visalia

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rusty Robinson, Kings Co. – Dist. 4
Eddie Valero, Tulare Co. – Dist. 4
Larry Micari, Tulare Co – Dist. 1
Robert Thayer, Kings Co. – Dist. 5

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Pete Vander Poel, Chair – Dist. 2

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Bobbie Wartson, Chair, Advisory Council
Mary Thomas
Brian Poth
Arturo Torres Montiel
Suzann Wray
Betsy Foote

STAFF PRESENT:

Israel Guardado, Administrative Specialist
Aaron Gomes, Administrative Specialist
Dayna Wild, Division Mgr., Adult Svcs.
Risë VanTichelt, Aging Services Unit Mgr.
Crista Gomez, Budget Officer HHSA
Bonnie Quiroz, Senior Advocate
Blanca Alvarez, HICAP Volunteer Coordinator
Rudy Porras, Administrative Aide
Jeannie White, Administrative Aide
Maritza De La Torre, Administrative Aide

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jason Kemp Van Ee, Kings Co.
Christopher Narez, Kings Co.
Eric Scott, Tulare Co. Counsel
Ashlee Winslow, City of Tulare Senior Center
Armando DeSilva, City of Lindsay
Angel Avitia, CSET
Eva Ibarra, CSET

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- 1. Call to Order** – Board Chair, Supervisor Larry Micari, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and thanked everyone for attending.
 - 2. Introductions**, as above.
 - 3. Board Member Comments** – None
 - 4. Public Comment** – Bobbie Wartson, Advisory Council Chair, shared that Kings County had a fundraiser Saturday Night for Sunset Rotary. Some of those funds go toward the senior programs for Kings County. Three of the Kings County Supervisors showed their support, which was appreciated. Arturo Torres, Advisory Council, said he was grateful to be part of this community and being able to help people. Special thanks to Rudy Porras for his assistance in helping with getting the correct resources for a helpless individual that needed assistance.
 - 5. Official Election of Vice Chair for 2025** – Supervisor Robinson motioned to approve Supervisor Thayer as Vice Chair. Supervisor Valero seconded the motion which passed. **(Micari/Thayer)**
 - 6. Approval of the Minutes of January 13, 2025** – Supervisor Valero motioned to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2025, Governing Board meeting; Supervisor Robinson seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote. **(Thayer/Micari)**
 - 7. Governing Board Meeting Schedule for 2025** – The Governing Board Meeting 2025 Schedule was updated to include locations for the remainder of the meetings.

8. **K/T AAA Fiscal Year 2025/26 Budget (Res. No. 25-003)** – Israel Guardado reported on this action item, which is an estimate for the 2025/26 budget at \$6.9 million. Budget is brought in March for the Board to approve the amount that each County will be responsible for. County contributions for FY 25/26 would be Kings County: \$66,479 and Tulare County: \$203,788. Supervisor Valero made a motion to approve based on the good faith partnership between both counties. Supervisor Robinson seconded the motion with the request that next time the budget be given to them prior to the meeting for review. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. (Micari/Thayer)
9. **Title V Request for Proposals (RFP)** - Request for Proposals for Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Older Americans Act – Title V. For the FY 25/26 contract the amount is scheduled to be \$93,559, which is under the \$100,000 threshold that requires an RFP. However, there is the potential of the state providing additional funds later in the year which could put it at over \$100,000. The K/T AAA is requiring a Letter of Intent which is due by April 11, 2025. The deadline for the proposal submission is May 5th. Expecting to announce the award at the next Governing Board Meeting on May 12th. Supervisor Micari made us aware of the Levine Act, and to seek County Council guidance if applicable.

10. Staff Reports

- **WEAAM Activities 2025** – Dayna Wild announced World Elder Abuse Awareness Month (WEAAM) will be on May 27th at the Government Plaza Building.
- **Area Plan 2025 Update & Public Hearings** – Risë VanTichelt reported not many changes are expected with the Area Plan 2025. Public Hearings will be held at Hanford Senior Center on April 10th at 10 a.m. and the Cutler-Orosi Senior Center on April 15th @ 10 a.m. for public comments. Will be discussed with the Advisory Council after the meeting.
- **Farmers Market Coupons, 2025** – Bonnie Quiroz reported that this year instead of vouchers the state has switched over to debit cards. Seniors will now get a debit card worth \$50. The benefit of that is when purchasing something for \$4, they can be charged just that instead of rounding it up to \$10. It will be more challenging for the farmers which now have to send in applications and get approval. Farmers will also need to have a device or app on their phone to scan for payment. Registration will take longer for seniors as name, address and debit card numbers will have to be inputted into the system and cards will need to be signed. HICAP will be assisting as well as the Tulare County Advocate, Armida. One will be giving information while the other inputs the information into the system. Applications can be completed online, and they can finish the process at Government Plaza or the Farmers Market (Dinuba, Visalia on Akers/Tulare or Visalia on Saturday morning) to complete the process. Based on the new projections 23% of the cards will also be distributed to Bobbie Wartson for Kings County. The incentive for farmers is that debit card payments will automatically be deposited without the need to redeem like the vouchers. Supervisor Micari requested an update of the process as soon as we have more information to share.
- **Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA) Report** –Bobbie Wartson reported that in February 1,864 hot meals were served, and 4,510 meals were delivered. Hosted a food bank on March 5th that served 452 people, out of those 252 were over the age of 60. World Elder Abuse Day will be June 13th, June 20th in Corcoran and June 27th in Avenal.
- **CSET Report** – Angel Avitia reported that Meals on Wheels currently has 730 active participants and served 11,055 frozen meals. Referral based, 10 received just last month. CSET is conducting home visits and reassessments with the seniors. A total of 7 Senior Centers served 2,964 hot meals to 294 participants. Completed a total of 7,637 hours of activity across all sites. Currently in the planning process of the 53rd Annual Senior Day in the Park which will take place on Friday May 9th and the Mooney Grove Park. This year will be a Hawaiian theme and Elvis will be returning. Last year the

turnout was 1200 Seniors and 300 volunteers. CSET is working closely with K/T AAA to put on event. If anyone is interested in volunteering or making donations, those can be made through the CSET website which is already live. There is a need for 300-400 cake donations, for the senior cake walk. Transportation has been arranged for each Senior Center which was a challenge. Jerel Dutton is no longer with CSET, he has moved to another organization. Eva Ibarra is the Program Coordinator for the Senior Services and very involved in the work being done.

- **City of Tulare Senior Center** – Ashlee Winslow presented the update for the City of Tulare Senior Center. A little over 6,000 meals were served in January and 5,400 meals in February. The center is averaging 1,000 more meals a month than last year.

11. Advisory Council Report

- Bobbie Wartson, Council Chair, announced that there was nothing to report.

12. Adjourn –The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dayna Wild, K/T AAA Director