 GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

*To be approved on:* Minutes of the January 24, 2022, meeting

March 21, 2022 Tele-conference (Zoom) access only

**GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Craig Pedersen, Kings Co. – Dist. 4

Larry Micari, Tulare Co. – Dist. 1

Eddie Valero, Tulare Co. – Dist. 4

Pete Vander Poel, – Dist. 2

Richard Fagundes, Kings Co. – Dist. 5

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Bobbie Wartson, Chair & KCCOA Director

Dan Fox, Vice Chair, Adv Council

Suzann Wray

Mary Thomas

Marianne Osborne

Marlene Chambers

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Mauro, Adult Services, Deputy Director

Dayna Wild, Division Mgr., Adult Srvcs.

Ms. Jamie Sharma, Mgr., Aging Services

Christa Cardoza, Budget Officer

Israel Guardado, Admin Specialist, Aging

Bonnie Quiroz, Senior Advocate

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Albert Cendejas, CSET Senior Services

Raquel Gomez, CSET

Rosemary Caso, United Way

Eric Scott, Tulare Co. County Counsel

Jason Kemp Van Ee, Kings Co.

1. **Call to Order** – Chair, Supervisor Valero called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was held with tele-conferencing (Zoom) access, only. No in-person attendance.

**\*Agenda Item #5, the Adoption of Resolution for Remote Attendance Pursuant to AB 361** This action item was moved up to immediately after the “Call to Order.” Supervisor Pedersen motioned to accept the resolution; Supervisor Micari seconded the motion, which carried on a voice vote 5/0. **(Pedersen/Micari)**

1. **Introductions –** Roll call attendance was announced by Ms. Sharma who read the Zoom attendee list, as above, and introduced Eric Scott, joining the meeting from Tulare County Counsel to help with AB 361 to make sure everything is on track with that new procedure.
2. **Board Member Comments** – Supervisor Fagundes announced the passing of former Supervisor Tony Barba in November 2021. A moment of silence was observed in honor of Supervisor Barba, who had served many years on the K/T AAA Governing Board.
3. **Public Comment**

Albert Cendejas, CSET, reported that the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, known as VITA, is scheduled to being in both Tulare and Kings Counties on February 1, 2022. The program is designed to assist and support with free basic tax preparation, those whose income is $54,000 or less. Because of the pandemic, contact will be made by dropping off documents at designated locations. Drop off locations include Cutler-Orosi, Visalia, Tulare, and Porterville, with a satellite in Pixley. Senior homebound clients will receive a packet with checklist of what information is needed, and where and how to participate.

* Rosemary Caso of United Way of Tulare County reported that she wanted the Board to be aware that United Way had received Utility and Mortgage Assistance funding for the residence within the city limits; and also have received money from the California Wellness Foundation to address rent assistance in rural communities. More information will be coming out soon on how individuals in rural communities can get that support. Supervisor Valero thanked Ms. Caso for being such an integral part of the community.
* Ms. Bobbie Wartson, Executive Director of Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA), reported that Kings Co. seniors received a $25 Walmart or CVS gift card – donated by a sponsor. Additionally, she noted that KCCOA also participates in the VITA program to help seniors with their tax preparation. She said that one of the “most requested” VITA volunteers, Charles Wilson, had passed away and would certainly be missed. Mr. Wilson also worked with the Ombudsman Program. Supervisor Valero thanked Ms. Wartson for her continued good work and service to the area seniors.

1. **Adoption of Resolution for Remote Attendance Pursuant to AB 361** – \*This action item was moved forward in the agenda to immediately after the “Call to Order.”
2. **Re-approve Minutes of the July 19, 2021, Governing Board** – Supervisor Pedersen motioned to approve the minutes of the July19, 2021 Governing Board meeting (under the guidelines of AB 361); Supervisor Micari seconded the motion, which carried by voice vote. These minutes had originally been approved at the October 2021 meeting, but not under AB 361. **(Pedersen/Micari)**
3. **Approve Contract MI-2122-15, Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA), and Ratify Signature of the Chair –** This agenda item is up for ratification of the Chair’s signature, under AB 361. Contract MI-2122-15 was originally brought to the Board for approval at the October 2021 meeting, but not under the guidelines of AB 361. Supervisor Vander Poel motioned to approve; Supervisor Micari seconded motion. Motion carried. **(Vander Poel/Micari)**
4. **Approval of Minutes of October 18, 2021 –** A motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2021, meeting was made by Supervisor Pedersen and seconded by Supervisor Vander Poel. On a motion and a second, the minutes were approved 4/0, with one abstention. **(Pedersen/Vander Poel)**
5. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2022 –** Supervisor Valero motioned that Vice Chair Supervisor Pedersen be nominated for the position of Chair and Supervisor Vander Poel be nominated for the position of Vice Chair. The motion carried and the gavel was passed to Supervisor Pedersen to continue the meeting as newly elected Chair. **(Valero/Vander Poel Res. No. 22-001)**
6. **Governing Board Meeting Schedul**e – Aging Services Manager, Ms. Jamie Sharma presented the proposed 2022 calendar of meetings, noting that the meeting schedule for 2022 follows the previous year’s timetable for the Board’s meetings. The 2022 meetings, as proposed, are for March 21, May 16, July 18, and October 17. These meetings will be hybrid, with both in-person and teleconferencing access. The Chair entertained a motion to accept. Supervisor Fagundes motioned to accept, and Supervisor Valero seconded the motion, which carried by voice vote. **(Fagundes/Valero Res. No. 22-002)**
7. **Re-Appointment of Advisory Council Member –** Ms. Sharma said that Ms. Wray has been on the Council for some time, and this appointment is a switching of her seat to a Governing Board-appointed seat, instead of a District County seat. It is being requested that she be appointed to Governing Board-appointed Seat Number 13. On a first motion by Supervisor Valero, and a second by Supervisor Micari, the motion to appoint passed unanimously. **(Valero/Micari Res. No. 22-003)**
8. **Title III-E Family Caregiver Support** **–** Administrative Specialist, Israel Guardado, reported that the contract for these services ended at the end of FY19/20 and at that time K/T AAA was due to go out for a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Tulare County for FY20-21. Due to the pandemic, an emergency contract was issued for that year and similarly for FY21-22. He said as we approach the new contract year, FY22-23, this issue is being brought to the Board to see how it wants to proceed – to issue another emergency contract or to move forward with an RFP. It was again noted this is for Title III-E Family CaregiverSupport services for Tulare County only. If the Board wants the Agency to move forward with an emergency contract, he said he would ask the Board to approved Resolution 22-004. If the Board prefers going out for and RFP for FY22-23, he said he would ask the Board to deny Resolution 22-004, which would put the Agency back in its normal process of going out for the RFP. Mr. Guardado said staff are requesting direction from the Board as to how it wishes to proceed with the contract. Board Chair, Supervisor Pedersen said he would default to the Tulare County Board members for their preference. Supervisor Vander Poel moved for approval on the item as presented; Supervisor Valero seconded the motion. Ms. Sharma requested clarification on the vote, as to which direction the Board was preferring, an emergency contract or an RFP, noting that an emergency contract would be allowed under the Stafford Act Provisions. Supervisor Vander Poel said given the emergency circumstances he did not feel the Agency needed to go through the RFP process. The Chair reiterated that by consensus the Board has agreed. **(Vander Poel/Valero Res. No. 22-004)**
9. **California Dept. of Aging Area Plan Contract, Amendment # 2 for Increased Funding** – Mr. Guardado reported on this information item regarding AP-2122-15 Amendment # 2, in the amount of $239,444. The bulk of this funding ($232,000) is for the Home Delivered Meals Program. It will be split between those providers (KCCOA, CSET, and the City of Tulare) according to the Joint Powers Agreement percentages; the remaining funding is for the Ombudsman Program. The K/T AAA Director had the authority to accept the funds and sign the amendment.
10. **California Senior Legislature (CSL) Elections** **–** Ms. Sharma reported that the K/T AAA is responsible for the elections for the CSL, which happens on a four-year cycle. The K/T AAA area has one Senior Senator position and one Assembly representative. Ms. Bobbie Wartson has served the last four years in the Assembly and Dr. David Wood, until his recent resignation, served as the Senior Senator. The election will take place at the May Advisory Council meeting.
11. **Staff Reports**

* **SCAN/Master Plan on Aging (MPA) Contract** **–** Dayna Wild reported on this informational item, saying that the K/T AAA has an opportunity to work with a consultant through Fresno State on the MPA. A contract has been approved with the consultant and staff is currently working on gathering the committee members that will be working with her. As more information becomes available, it will be brought to the Board.
* **Area Plan Update (APU) –** Mr. Guardado said this is a reminder that the APU is due to the CDA each year. The APU outlines the Agency’s goals and objectives for its services. A major update is done every four years, with smaller updates done annually in the interim years. The Update is due to the State by May 1, each year. K/T AAA normally submits a draft to the CDA, and once completed, it is brought to the Board at its May meeting for final approval.
* **Senior Day in the Park 2022 –** Ms. Sharma said in conferring with HHSA Administration and CSET, the conclusion on whether to have the Senior Day in the Park event, is that it should be postponed again this year due to it still not being safe enough to hold a large-scale event. She said with the Board’s blessings, staff will make the community aware of that decision.
* **Farmer Market Coupons for 2022 –** Bonnie Quiroz, K/T AAA Senior Advocate, announced that K/T AAA has received notification from the CA Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), that it will be issuing Farmers Market Coupons this year, with booklets of increased value from the previous amount of $20, to $40. She said also that she has reached out to the manager of the Visalia market, who often secures a grant that matches CDFA booklet value, which equates to each senior being eligible for $80.
* **Staff Tribute –** John Mauro, Deputy Director for Adult Services announced that Ms. Jamie Sharma will be leaving the Aging Services program at the end of February to take the position of Executive Director of the Fresno/Madera Area Agency on Aging. He acknowledged her exceptional work with and leadership in the K/T AAA during her 5 ½ years with the Agency as its Aging Services Manager. He said she worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to help provide services to some of the most vulnerable people in the community. This included writing grants that resulted in awards for the Tulare County Veterans and in getting iPads for seniors. He noted that she also was instrumental in coordinating vaccinations and Covid 19 information for the senior population. Supervisor Pedersen thanked her for her service. Additionally, Supervisor Vander Poel wished her well in her new position and gave words of appreciation for her work that she had done with the Agency. Supervisor Valero also thanked her for her work in the trenches and for dedicating so much energy to senior causes. Many other staff and colleagues spoke words of appreciation for her service during her time with the Agency.

1. **Advisory Council Report –** Council Chair, Bobbie Wartson, reported that the Council’s ABC Committee had a meeting on January 10, during which a State Ombudsman representative made a presentation to the Committee, giving an overview of the program.
2. **Adjourn –** The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Ortiz, K/T AAA Director

John Mauro, Deputy HHSA Dir. of Tulare Co. APS/PG (designee)