 GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

*To be approved on:* Minutes of the March 21, 2022, meeting

May 16, 2022 Both in-person and Tele-conference

(Zoom) access

**GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Craig Pedersen, Kings Co. – Dist. 4 (late arrival)

Larry Micari, Tulare Co. – Dist. 1

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, Chair & KCCOA Director

Dan Fox, Vice Chair, Advisory Council

Susann Wray

Marlene Chambers

Mary Thomas

Betsey Foote

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Mauro, Adult Services, Deputy Director

Dayna Wild, Division Mgr., Adult Srvcs.

Ashley Bier, Mgr., Aging Services

Israel Guardado, Admin Specialist, Aging

Bonnie Quiroz, Senior Advocate

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Albert Cendejas, CSET Senior Services

Angel Avitia, CSET

Raquel Gomez, CSET

Sanja Bugay, Kings Co.

Eric Scott, Tulare Co. County Counsel

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

The meeting was held as a hybrid model with in-person and tele-conferencing (Zoom) access. Supervisor Vander Poel said that although the meeting was short a quorum, Supervisor Micari would be joining the meeting shortly and he would return to any action items at that time.

1. **Adoption of Resolution for Remote Attendance Pursuant to AB 361 –** *Adopt resolution setting forth findings required under Assemble Bill 361 allowing K/T AAA to continue holding its meetings remotely according to the modified Brown Act teleconferencing provisions set forth in AB 361. Supervisor Micari moved to approve, Supervisor Valero seconded the motion, which passed. Supervisors Fagundes and Pedersen were not present. Supervisor Pedersen would arrive later.*

**(Micari/Valero)**

1. **Introductions –** As above.
2. **Board Member Comments –** None
3. **Public Comment**

* Raquel Gomez, CSET, announced that Albert Cendejas would be leaving CSET’s Senior Services staff. She said Mr. Cendejas embodies the passion of the mission to help seniors get the services they need. Mr. Cendejas said it had been an honor to work with the CSET team and to have such a great collaboration with the K/T AAA.
* Dan Fox, Advisory Council Vice Chair, reported that the Tulare Co. Association of Governments (TCAG) is now in the process of conducting an “unmet needs” survey for transportation needs. It is an opportunity to give feedback and suggestions to TCAG for the coordination of local transit. More information can be accessed on its website.
* Ms. Bobbie Wartson, Kings County Commission on Aging Director said that the Kings County Board of Supervisors had recognized and honored her work with the seniors during National Women’s History Month (March).
* Mr. Cendejas reported on a program that provides $500 stipend scholarships for student youth help. Approximately 50 stipends are available and will be presented to students working with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance VITA program.
* Dayna Wild, the Tulare County Division Manager for Adult Services, introduced Ashley Bier, the new Aging Services Manager. Ms. Bier has previously worked with Tulare County Human Resources, County Counsel, and as Deputy Public Guardian.

1. **Approval of Minutes of January 24, 2022** – Supervisor Valero motioned to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2022, Governing Board meeting; Supervisor Micari seconded the motion, which carried by voice vote. The motion passed unanimously. **(Valero/Micari)**
2. **In the Matter of the Kings/Tulare Master Plan for Aging (MPA) Advisory Committee** – Dayna Wild reported on an Advisory Committee being formed to locally develop solutions for the five goals of the MPA, including affordable housing and health care for the elderly, inclusion, affordable caregiving, and economic security for the senior population. Dr. Helen Miltiades, Professor of Gerontology, will be assisting Kings and Tulare Counties in the development and implementation of the MPA strategies, working with a grant from the SCAN foundation and with help from Fresno State University students. On a motion by Supervisor Micari, seconded by Supervisor Valero, the Board elected Supervisor Vander Poel for appointment as Tulare County representative to serve on the MPA Advisory Committee. The motion passed unanimously. It was noted that Kings County has its own separate process to select a member for Kings County representation. **(Res. No. 22-005 Micari/Valero)**
3. **Approval of K/T AAA Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget –** Israel Guardado, Administrative Specialist for the K/T AAA presented an overview of the FY22/23 budget, saying that the budget is presented early to the Board every year, so that it can be conveyed to each County, (Kings and Tulare) what their financial responsibility to the K/T AAA will be.He noted that there is an approximate nine percent increase in the budget over last year’s 4.9 million dollars. Funding is distributed to direct services (the HICAP and MSSP programs), Administration, and contracted services - going out to providers. He said State and Federal funding make up the largest portion of the Agency’s funding, noting that this year the K/T AAA received additional State funding for Administration at $100,000. Additionally, the Agency has inter-department Letters-to-File with CalFresh and Tulare County Mental Health. Fifty-four percent of the Agency revenue goes to service providers. The County contributions are calculated, per the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), based on senior population figures (age 60+) from the CA Dept. of Finance. The current split is Kings County 22%; Tulare County 78%. It was noted also that Kings County (KCCOA) received 29 percent of funding because they are the designated Ombudsman for both counties and as such receive 100 percent of that funding. For FY22/23, the amount requested from Kings County will be $48,895; and the amount requested from Tulare County will be, $173,355. Mr. Guardado distributed several handouts that detailed the information reviewed in the overview. **(Res. No. 22-006 Micari/Valero)**

\*Supervisor Pedersen arrived at this time – and the gavel was passed to him, as Board Chair, to continue the meeting.

1. **Amendment to FY21-22 California Department of Aging Area Plan Contract AP-2122-15 Amendment #3 –** Mr. Guardado said this is an amendment to the Area Plan contract pertaining to the American Rescue Plan funding at 1.8 million dollars to supplement Area Plan programs. There are some One-Time-Only funds also included, but minimal compared to the American Rescue Plan funds. This amendment to the existing contract is being brought to the Board for approval because of the high dollar amount and that it exceeds ten percent of the total contract. Supervisor Vander Poel moved for approval, with Supervisor Micari seconding the motion. The motion passed 4/0 by voice vote. **(Res. No. 22-007 Vander Poel/Micari)**
2. **Amendment to FY21-22 California Department of Aging HICAP Contract HI-2122-15 Amendment #1** – Mr. Guardado said this is an amendment to the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) that increases the contract total to $326,000. K/T AAA received a $571,000 increase. However, he said it is a little misleading as the contract terms have also been expanded. Originally, set to expire in June, the contract has instead been expanded by adding 21 months to the term. The funding is being given to us to cover that additional part of the term. So, although it looks like it has more than doubled, the funding is fairly stable with an approximately $200 increase. Funding for FY23/24 is included in the contract amendment. Had it been normal, it would have been a contract renewal. It was decided to line up the Fiscal Year with the Federal Fiscal Year – adding an additional nine months to get it started, and then twelve months to get it matched up to the Federal Fiscal Year. The total dollar amount does increase the contract by more than ten percent – more than doubling it. The Board Chair entertained a motion to accept. Supervisor Micari moved to approve; Supervisor Valero seconded the motion which carried unanimously (4/0) by voice vote. **(Res. No. 22-008 Micari/Valero)**
3. **Multipurpose Senor Services Program (MSSP) Budget Announcement for FY22-23 –** Mr. Guardado said this is an information item to let the Board know that we have received notification of the budget announcement for the MSSP program. There has been a small increase. The current year program had received $873,000, which had been bumped up mid-year to $930,000; and now for the new year will be $1,870,000. A budget has been submitted and the contract should be coming soon.
4. **Staff Reports**

* **CA Assoc of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) Conference** **–** Dayna Wild reported on this informational item saying that staff has the opportunity to attend a conference of our Association – the Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A). This is the first in-person conference in approximately 2 years (due to Covid). It will take place May 11-13, 2022, in Glendale. She extended an invitation to any Board member if they were interested. She also noted that the venue required no masks or vaccines.
* **Area Plan Update (APU), annual APU to Four-Year Area Plan –** Israel Guardado reported that each year the APU is brought to the Board at its May meeting after having submitted a draft to the CDA. The Public Hearing on the Update is scheduled for April 22, 2022 and will be done via Zoom. More information on how to attend is on the <https://ktaaa.org> website. K/T AAA service providers have been invited and are encouraged to participate and attend.
* **Digital Divide –** Dayna Wild said this project to set up and deliver 93 iPads to seniors turned out to be a little more time and energy consuming than first anticipated. She noted that Jeannie White, an Administrative Aide with Human Services personally opened and set up emails for each individual iPad and made sure that all appropriate APPs were on them. Additionally, Ms. Wild thanked Bonnie Quiroz and Maria Gonzalez for their work in getting the iPads issued out and delivered to each senior. She noted that unexpectedly, some seniors are hesitant and decline them. The K/T AAA hired a company called Cyber Seniors to train seniors, but also unexpectedly, seniors are reluctant to answer the phone with the consultants. However, she said the experiences have served to be a good “pilot” on what to expect, and she has offered the State to share our Agency’s experience to help other AAAs to be successful. It was noted that the CDA has been issued approximately 70 more iPads for senior distribution. Ms. Quiroz shared some success stories, including of one 80-year-old plus senior that was able to remain in touch with his family while at Stanford being treated for cancer.
* **CDFA Farmers Market Coupons for the 2022 season –** Bonnie Quiroz reported that this year the market vouchers are going to be available for seniors (during the 2020 and 2021 seasons, due to Covid, funding was diverted to other methods of food distribution). Voucher booklets worth $40 each will be available, and she noted that the Visalia Farmers Market is doing a matching grant, which will increase the amount each senior can receive to $80.
* **WEAAM –** John Mauro reported that this year’s World Elder Abuse Awareness activities will be on May 31, 2022, at 9 a.m. at Government Plaza, with a flag planting ceremony, but no presentations or speeches.

1. **Advisory Council Report**

* Council Chair, Bobbie Wartson, reported that the Council has received two candidate application for the California Senior Legislature (CSL); herself applying for CSL Senator and Dan Fox applying for representation in the Senior Assembly.
* Dan Fox reported on the ABC committee, which he said will be looking at the Area Plan Update, and upcoming contracts. He also said that it was brought up as an idea to have information presentations done at Council meetings by the various programs, including the Adult Protective Services (APS) program. Additionally, he said he is advocating for getting a property fraud alert system set up with the County that would flag the property owner, if his or her property comes up with any unusual activity.

1. **Adjourn –** The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Ortiz, K/T AAA Director

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