 GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

*To be approved on:* Minutes of the January 22, 2024,

March 18, 2024 Tulare Co. Connections Bldg.

**GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Pete Vander Poel, Chair – Dist. 2

Rusty Robinson, Kings Co. – Dist. 4

Eddie Valero, Tulare Co. – Dist. 4

Larry Micari, Tulare Co. – Dist. 1

Richard Fagundes, Kings Co. – Dist. 5

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Bobbie Wartson, Chair, Advisory Council

Marlene Chambers

Marianne Osborne

Mary Thomas

Suzann Wray

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Mauro, Adult Services, Deputy Director

Dayna Wild, Division Mgr., Adult Srvcs.

Rise VanTichelt, Adult Services Unit Mgr.

Bonnie Quiroz, Senior Advocate

Israel Guardado, Administrative Specialist

Aaron Gomes, Administrative Specialist

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Eric Scott, Tulare Co. County Counsel

Angel Avitia, CSET

Jason Kemp Van Ee, Kings Co.

Arturo Torres Montiel, Adv. Council candidate

Raquel Gomez, CSET

Robert Garcia, Adv Council candidate, Kings Co.

Miriam Juarez-Bermudez

Brian Poth

Christopher Narez, Kings Co.

1. **Call to Order** – Board Chair, Supervisor Vander Poel, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and thanked everyone for attending.
2. **Introductions,** as above.
3. **Board Member Comments –**

* Supervisor Robinson commented that he had recently had an opportunity to visit the Armona Senior Center and he was impressed, and also impressed with the number of meals being served.
* Supervisor Valero said that he was approached by seniors at the Cutler Senior Center and from that conversation, it was decided to have an event in Ivanhoe. The Ivanhoe event will be on February 29, 2024, 10a.m.to 2 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Ivanhoe.

1. **Public Comment –** None
2. **Approval of the Minutes of October 16, 2023** – Supervisor Fagundes motioned to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2023, Governing Board meeting; Supervisor Valero seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote. **(Fagundes/Valero)**
3. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2024** – Supervisor Vander Poel, the current Board Chair said that typically the Vice Chair, currently Supervisor Robinson, is nominated (by motion) to the Chair position, and a new Vice Chair is elected, from the alternate County. Supervisor Fagundes made a first motion for Supervisor Robinson to be Chair with Supervisor Micari as Vice Chair. Supervisor Robinson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The gavel was passed to Supervisor Robinson. **(Res. No. 24-001 Fagundes/Robinson)**
4. **Governing Board Meeting Schedule , 2024 –** Supervisor Robinson read the resolution aloud that indicates the 2024 meeting schedule and locations. Supervisor Fagundes motioned to accept the schedule as presented; Supervisor Micari seconded the motion. The schedule was adopted by unanimous voice vote. (**Res. No. 24-002 Fagundes/Micari)**

**Urgency Action Requested**: Before reporting out on the amendments listed on the agenda in item #8, Israel Guardado requested the board to allow an additional time-sensitive item to be added to the agenda as an emergency action. He said that K/T AAA had received the current year HICAP contract from the Department of Aging (CDA) after the completion and distribution of the agenda. He noted the current HICAP contract expires at the end of March 2024. Based on that timing in relation to the next Board meeting, he requested approval to bring the new contract to the Board for approval as an emergency item. After consulting Eric Scott, County Counsel, who was present at the meeting, regarding the appropriateness of an emergency action in this case, the Board members found in favor of adding an action item. On a motion by Supervisor Vander Poel, seconded by Supervisor Fagundes, it was approved to do so.

For the record, Supervisor Micari said he wanted the urgency aspect of the contract in question verified. Mr. Guardado stated that a main concern was the tight turnaround in getting any approved CDA contracts to the State, having it processed by CDA, including the budget review, etc. and returned timely to K/T AAA. Considering everything, he said he felt the best option would be to approve the contract at the current meeting to avoid any potential delays or interruptions. **(Emergency Res. No. 24-004 Vander Poel/Fagundes)**

On a motion by Supervisor Valero, seconded by SupervisorMicari, the current year Health InsuranceCounseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) contract, HI-2425-15, was approved.**(Res. No. 24-005 Valero/Micari)**

1. **CDA Contract Amendment Updates –** Mr. Guardado reported on the below amendments, as informational updates on the following contracts, noting that for Title V and Digital Connections, the amendments were extensions of the term of the contract, no dollar amount change and the K/T AAA Director had signed them:

* **Title V/ SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program) TV-2122-15, Amend #3 Re-release** – this amendment extends the term of the contract through June 2024.
* **Digital Connections, Amendment #1 (DC-2223-15)** **–** The amendment to this contract extends the term of the contract to September 30, 2024.

The recently received Area Plan Contract amendment, below, includes One-Time-Only funding and baseline adjustments with a net change of $332,262. It also extends the term for specific funding (Nutrition and Ombudsman) to June 2025.

* **Area Plan Contract AP-2324-15, Amendment #1**

1. **Public Health Workforce Program Funds –** Regarding the re-distribution of Public Health Workforce funds, Dayna Wild reported that in May an action item was brought to the Board to accept Public Health funding, noting that it was very specific and although it was received through the K/T AAA it was really a pass through to Public Health (PH), specifically for staffing, and even more specifically for Covid. Ms. Wild said it was difficult to spend right now because of the specificity of its use, and the $25,000 that was designated for Kings County, its PH Director said would interfere with other funding they currently have, and so subsequently has declined it. She noted that it is leftover ARPA funding. This resolution would re-distribute the funds to Tulare County in an attempt to get it spent. On a motion by Supervisor Vander Poel, seconded by Supervisor Micari, the motion passed unanimously. **(Res. No. 24-003 Vander Poel/Micari)**

Supervisor Valero referred back to agenda item # 6, the election of the Board Chair and Vice Chair. He asked as a point of clarification, if in the past, was this done in ranking order, and is it continuing? Usually, the Chair position rotates from county to county; with the Vice Chair being selected from alternate counties each year, in a rotating cycle. That has been the convention, but it is at the discretion of the Board.

1. **Staff Reports**

* **Ombudsman Annual Report –** Rise VanTichelt, Unit Manager for Adult Services, reported that the Ombudsman Annual Report featured an article on Ms. Bobbie Wartson and her role with the Ombudsman program and her involvement on various community councils and boards. She said that K/T AAA wanted to share the nice “write up.” And Ms. Wartson commented that K/T AAA was the only PSA that made the final report.
* **2023 (Annual) Senior Holiday Stocking Project**  – Bonnie Quiroz reported that 673 holiday stockings were distributed to Tulare County seniors this year over the holiday season. Including deliveries to Home Delivered Meals clients, and clients from the IHSS program, Adult Protective Services, and former Advisory Council members as well as various other clients, especially those with no local family. The Fire department also helped to make deliveries. She noted that deliveries were made at several senior residential locations, including Kaweah Manor, Westgate, and Quail Park. Also, some of the centenarians got stockings, including one senior that was 110 years old. The gifts include lap blankets, beanies, scarves, hygiene items, gloves, chocolates, and popcorn.

Supervisor Valero said that he understands that typically those already in one of the agency programs are recipients, but asked how does someone identified outside the agency programs be included? Ms. Quiroz said that people become familiar with the program through word-of-mouth, written articles about the project (i.e. articles in the Good Life newspaper) and through community contacts.

* **Farmers Market 2023 Coupon Report** – Bonnie Quiroz, Senior Advocate reported that this year had a good turnout; 880 booklets (at $50 each) were successfully distributed. She noted that 22 % is given to Kings County for their seniors. Ms. Quiroz said that a nice relationship and rapport has been established with local farmers and that often the farmers will even give left over produce to K/T AAA staff to bring to the senior centers. She also noted that 13 senior living apartments were visited to help broaden the scope of getting fresh produce out to the seniors.
* **Kings County Commission on Aging Report** – Ms. Bobbie Wartson reported that KCCOA was able to give out holiday stockings and that the Hanford Rotary contributes to this effort. Each stocking includes 2 gift cards, toiletries, and snacks. Corcoran District Hospital also donated gift money (coupons) to be used locally at local vendors and shop owners, and which would then be reimbursed by the hospital. Additionally, in conjunction with Kings County Human Services, other gift items were arranged for seniors, including microwave ovens and vacuums, etc.
* **CSET Report**
  + Angel Avitia reported that CSET has been conducting interviews to hire staff to open the Exeter Senior Center. It is a part-time position. Supervisor Micari asked to be notified when the center is opened. Supervisor Valero asked about funding for centers that are not open – what happens to it? Israel Guardado said the contract with CSET is not written to delay or withhold money contingent on the number of centers that are fully operational. The full contract allocation is given. Raquel Gomez (CSET) also explained that area seniors continue to receive services and meals.
  + The Tulare Co. Senior Day in the Park date has been set for May 10th and the entertainer, “Elvis” has been secured. Planning and organizing for the event have begun, including recruiting volunteers. It was noted that the long-time “parking guru” Darrell Watson has left the County, so will not be available to help direct traffic and parking this year.

On another note, there was a discussion about Bingo at the Woodlake Senior Center. Ms. Gomes clarified that there is no prohibition to playing Bingo, but there cannot be an exchange of money or prizes. The game of Bingo is allowed, but the gambling aspect is not allowed.

1. **Advisory Council Report**

* Bobbie Wartson, Chair, reported the Council is still recruiting for additional members.

1. **Adjourn –**The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna Wild, K/T AAA Director