



GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

To be approved on:
March 17, 2025

Minutes of January 13, 2025,
911 N. Parkside Ave, Lindsay CA 93247

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
Robert Thayer, Kings Co. – Dist. 5

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Bobbie Wartson, Chair, Advisory Council
John Davis
Marianne Osborne
Mary Thomas
Brian Poth
Arturo Torres Montiel
Robert Garcia

STAFF PRESENT:

Israel Guardado, Administrative Specialist
Aaron Gomes, Administrative Specialist
Risë VanTichelt, Aging Services Unit Mgr.
Dori Silveria, HICAP & MSSP Program Manager
Bertha Villalpando, Soc. Services Supervisor
Rudy Porras, Administrative Aide
Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jason Kemp Van Ee, Kings Co.
Raquel Gomez, CSET
Christopher Narez, Kings Co.
Eric Scott, Tulare Co. Counsel
Ashlee Winslow, City of Tulare Senior Center
Angel Avitia, CSET
Seniors from the Lindsay Senior Center

1. **Call to Order** – Board Chair, Supervisor Rusty Robinson, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and introduced himself to the seniors and attendees, thanking everyone for attending. He also introduced Supervisor Thayer as the newest member of the Governing Board. It was noted that Supervisor Thayer was not yet officially appointed to the K/T AAA Governing Board but was scheduled to be the next day at the Kings County Board of Supervisors.
2. **Introductions**, as above.
3. **Board Member Comments** – A special welcome was extended to Mr. John Davis who was a former Tulare County HHSA Agency Director and a former Director of the K/T AAA.
4. **Public Comment** – Arturo Torres introduced himself as a member of LULAC and reported on that organization's helping to getting 30 of its members U.S. citizenship, with the help of a congressmen.
5. **Approval of the Minutes of July 15, 2024** – Supervisor Vander Poel motioned to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2024, Governing Board meeting; Supervisor Valero seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote. **(Vander Poel/Valero)**
6. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2025** – Supervisor Vander Poel noted that the convention is for the Vice Chair to be moved into the Chair position, and so nominated Supervisor Micari as Chair. Additionally, Supervisor Thayer was “tentatively” nominated as Vice Chair, contingent on his official appointment to the Governing Board. In consideration of the situation, the Vice Chair nomination was continued until the March meeting. Supervisor Valero seconded the motion which passed. **(Vander Poel/Valero)**
7. **Governing Board Meeting Schedule for 2025** – On a motion by Supervisor Valero the schedule was approved,

with the understanding that some of the meeting locations were still to be determined; but the dates could be confirmed. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Robinson. It was noted that the community meeting slated for Kings County would most likely be at the Avenal Senior Center. (**Valero/Robinson**)

8. **CDA Contract Amendment Updates** – Israel Guardado reported on this information item, which is an update to the MOU with the CDA regarding funding. It is an information item because it is essentially an amendment, which the K/T AAA Director, Dayna Wild, has the authority to approve and sign:
9. Title V (Senior employment) received an increase of \$8,998, for both Kings and Tulare Counties MIPPA (Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act), which is in conjunction with the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) and pays for clerical staff and the Volunteer Coordinator position. MIPPA is part of the MOU agreement, but in the transition from individual annual contracts to the MOU, (with the MOU start date of July 1, 2024,) the MIPPA contract dates overlapped the MOU. MIPPA conventionally runs from September to August. The baseline MIPPA was \$43,000, increased to \$53,023. Lastly, the One-Time-Only funding (OTO), which is rollover funding including the main Area Plan funding (Nutrition, Family Caregivers, and Supportive Services) had a net increase of \$301,498.
10. **Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy (HICAP)** – Also an information item, this is a HICAP budget revision (OTO funding), with a baseline adjustment of \$5,193 (\$445).
11. **Area Plan Contract AP-2122-15** – This is also an information item. This Fiscal Year 21/22 contract included ARPA funding, which is supplemental funding to the regular Area Plan funding. This extends the availability of these funds to September 2025. For K/T AAA it is really a non-issue because the Agency spent all its funding by the original deadline of September 2024. There is a small amount of funding left for administration, but all K/T AAA providers have spent their funding. By the time the contract extension was received, K/T AAA had already spent this funding.
12. **California Health Advocates (CHA)** – This is another contract update. This funding is \$10,000 and doesn't really vary from year to year. The funds supplement the HICAP Program; the intent of this funding is to find Medicare fraud issues.
13. **Tulare Senior Center Report on Grab-N-Go Meals** – Ashlee Winslow, Recreation Supervisor for the Tulare Senior Community Center reported on the Nutrition Program numbers comparing Pre-Covid with Post-Covid numbers. Ms. Winslow explained that she chose the month of October for the comparisons, saying it is a consistent month for several reasons. She noted that extreme weather impacts attendance, especially extreme heat; and also, that there are no major holidays in October. She said there are 4 main programs: Grab-N-Go, Congregate, and Home Delivered, both Hot and Frozen. She noted that the Grab-N-Go is the biggest program, but also that the Congregate (in center) program was slowly being built back up.
14. **Staff Reports**
 - **CDA Monitoring Visit** – Risë VanTichelt, Aging Services Unit Manager, reported on the CDA Monitoring visit, saying it will be a bit before the final report is issued, but overall the K/T AAA received good feedback. She also thanked Supervisors Robinson and Micari for their participation. She noted that, if anything, they are expecting to be requested to make some policy updates. Supervisor Micari noted that initially the CDA seemed to think there was discord between Kings and Tulare Counties, but by the end of the conversation, that attitude had dissipated
 - **Sunshine Bag Distribution** – Mrs. VanTichelt reported on this project, saying it was similar to the Senior Stockings distributed during the winter holiday. These were distributed to 92 of the most vulnerable homebound clients. The bags included personal items, and health-related items, including, exercise bands, water bottles, puzzles (for cognitive improvement), etc.

- **2024 Annual Senior Holiday Stockings** – Mrs. VanTichelt said K/T AAA partnered with CSET, Starbucks, and other Adult Services Programs to distribute 853 stockings this holiday season. Seniors were given a tote bag with stocking filled with personal items, a warm blanket, socks, beanie, and flashlight. Bonnie Quiroz, the Senior Advocate who heads up this project (but was not in attendance at the meeting) has said the best part is being able to visit with the senior recipients. It was noted that Fire Department firemen also go on the visits and can check on things like smoke alarm batteries, etc.
- Noting the difference in the numbers, (92 Sunshine Bags vs the 853 Stockings), Supervisor Vander Poel asked if there is any way to do other types of outreach in order to expand contact for other projects similar to the Sunshine Bags? Mrs. VanTichelt said the funding for the Sunshine Bags was Mental Health funding for Homebound seniors and it was originally used for the Senior Social Network, but because of the low participation in that program was re-directed to the Sunshine Bags. She remarked that there may be room to expand but fundraising efforts would need to be utilized. A discussion followed, which included the Lindsay seniors and CSET staff about connecting seniors with help and services they may need.
- **Farmers Market Coupons, 2024** – Ms. VanTichelt reported the distribution of 530 Senior Farmers Market Voucher booklets worth \$50 each. 150 booklets went to KCCOA for distribution in Kings County (per the 22/78 Area Plan split). In Tulare County the coupons were distributed at the Friday Dinuba market and in Visalia at the Wednesday and Saturday markets. Aaron Gomes said that he will post an announcement about the coupons on the KTAAA.org website when the coupons have been received by the K/T AAA, which is usually in April or May.
- **Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA) Report** – Ms. Bobbie Wartson reported that seniors start calling for the Market Coupons early, so KCCOA starts a “wait list” for them. She noted that often, due to the heat, the Farmers Market is cancelled (sometimes the day of!). But she noted that the 150 booklets allocated to Kings County were distributed within 2 days. On a different note, KCCOA has a wish list for the seniors to request items during the holidays. Various community partners help to fulfill getting the items. 140 seniors were provided with gifts. The Rotary Club helps to get items for the Home Delivered Meals clients, including gloves, socks, snacks, and gift cards. Seniors attending the centers get stockings, including gift cards, and the centers also have a special holiday meal and party. Senior center meals are provided by their own caterer used to provide meals on a regular basis. Additionally, 350 seniors come to the monthly food bank distribution, with cars lined up early before the trucks even get there.
- **CSET Report** – Angel Avitia reported the numbers of 375 Home Delivered clients and (73,000) meals. Senior centers have served 19,000 hot meals. Also, this year at the Exeter and Cutler center Volunteer Income Tax (VITA) services will be available for those seniors with incomes under \$67,000. The service is free. Also announced was the 53rd Annual Senior Day in the Park (Tulare Co.) preparation and planning are underway. Information can be found on the CSET.org website. Ms. Wartson said that KCCOA also does taxes in the Armona office, by appointment only.

15. Advisory Council Report

- Bobbie Wartson, Council Chair, reported that K/T AAA hosted an appreciation lunch for the Council on December 17, 2024 at Fugazzi restaurant in Visalia.
- California Senior Legislature (CSL) – Ms. Wartson (CSL Senator) said each year there is a session in Sacramento at which 10 top priorities are chosen to attempt to turn into bills to help seniors. The focus is on creating bills with issues that will make seniors' lives easier. She noted that over 200 CSL proposals have been turned into bills. These can be seen at the CSL website.
- Lastly, Ms. Wartson said the Council continues to recruit for additional members. Supervisor Micari suggested reaching out to Jennifer Fox, with the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Public Information Office, to get open positions posted.

16. Adjourn –The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.

Respectfully submitted,
Dayna Wild, K/T AAA Director