 GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

*To be approved on:* Minutes of the March 18, 2024,

May 13, 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

Brian Poth

Arturo Torres Montiel

Robert Garcia

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Mauro, Adult Services, Deputy Director

Dayna Wild, Division Mgr., Adult Srvcs.

Christa Gomez, Budget Officer

Rise VanTichelt, Adult Services Unit Mgr.

Bonnie Quiroz, Senior Advocate

Israel Guardado, Administrative Specialist

Aaron Gomes, Administrative Specialist

Rudy Porras, Administrative Aide

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Angel Avitia, CSET

Raquel Gomez, CSET

Allison Pierce, Tulare Co. Counsel

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 Valero reported that he has been meeting with seniors in Ivanhoe and recently a resource fair of sorts was hosted at the Ivanhoe Memorial building. About 40 seniors attended and about 15 agencies participated. He thanked K/T AAA staff for their part in the event.
4. **Public Comment –** None
5. **Approval of the Minutes of January 22, 2024** – Supervisor Vander Poel motioned to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2024, Governing Board meeting; Supervisor Valero seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote. **(Vander Poel/Valero)**
6. **Approval of K/T AAA Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget** – Israel Guardado said the main purpose of bringing the budget to the Board at this time is to outline and determine the match dollars to be requested from each County. It is done early in the year to give each County plenty of time for planning. Because it is so early, the budget is built using a lot of estimates and based on numbers from this year. There are numbers that are contracted to us, such as the MSSP contract. However, the vast majority of the others are estimates. Mr. Guardado also noted the requested County contributions (Kings Co. at $58,945; Tulare Co. at $211,322) The County split is based on senior population in each County and per the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), with Kings County 22%; Tulare County, 78%. The request was put before the Board for approval of the budget and the match dollar amount. Supervisor Micari motioned to approve, with a second by Supervisor Valero. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. **(Res. No. 24-006 Micari/Valero)**
7. **CDA Contract Amendment Updates –** Aaron Gomes reported on the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) contract amendment #1 (MI-2324-15), in the amount of $65,567. Historically, this funding pays for a Volunteer Coordinator with the HICAP program. Funding term is from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024. It is being brought to the Board as an information item. As an amendment, the Director has the authority to sign it.
8. **Staff Reports**

* **C4A –** Dayna Wild reported on the upcoming annual C4A conference, May 1-3, 2024, in San Jose, CA. A team of Aging Services and K/T AAA staff will be attending. Ms. Wild also invited any Board member to attend if they were so inclined.
* **WEAAM Activities, 2024**  – John Mauro reported this year’s World Elder Abuse Awareness activities will be held on May 28, 2024, on the North side of the Government Plaza building (5957 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia). Flag planting (in recognition of the number of cases in the County), and banners will be part of the messaging of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Prevention effort. Event begins at 8:30 a.m.

Bobbie Wartson reported that Kings County will similarly be recognizing June as Elder Abuse Awareness Prevention month, with a pancake breakfast in Armona. Kings County Board Supervisors will be in attendance and there will be entertainment, including Elvis impersonator, Jeramy Pearce.

* **Mental Health Funding – Sunshine Gift Sacks** – Dayna Wild reported on the newly conceived idea of distributing Sunshine gift bags to the seniors in Tulare County. This will be a similar campaign to the Senior stockings during the winter holiday, but this will be done during the summer months. The $25,000 funding is from the Tulare County Mental Health program. This money was formerly allocated to the Valley Caregivers Resource Center (VCRC) for the Homebound Senior Network, a call-in style program. Due to low participation in the call-in program, it was decided to re-direct the funding into a different way in which to reach out to the senior population. It will continue to provide a way to make connections with seniors. Supervisor Valero commented that he appreciates that staff were able to pivot to something that will continue to serve the mission and vision of the K/T AAA in serving the seniors.
* **Area Plan 2024-2028** – Ms. Rise VanTichelt, Adult Services Unit Manager, said that every 4 years the Agency is required to put together an Area Plan that outlines the demographics and the needs of older adults in Tulare and Kings Counties. This year, K/T AAA is partnering with an organization that will help extend our reach in the community. They have developed a survey and received feedback from 100 individuals and from 40 different providers. Additionally, they are working with KCCOA and CSET to put together focus groups at some of the senior centers. Ms. VanTichelt said that the flyer for a survey was included in the Governing Board agenda packet, which will go out to seniors aged 60 and above and which will help K/T AAA as an agency with the needs assessment to make sure it is gathering as much feedback as possible from the community. Dayna Wild said that additionally, there have been 9 stakeholder meetings and an opportunity to reach seniors in smaller rural areas such as Badger and Three Rivers. In May the completed Area Plan will be brought to the Governing Board for approval.
* **Kings County Commission on Aging Report** – Ms. Bobbie Wartson reported that a focus group is scheduled to meet at the Hanford 9 ¼ Avenue Senior Center on this very day. She also reported that all the Kings County senior centers are open, and all nutrition meals are prepared at the individual sites, except for the Handford center. Those meal are prepared at the Armona site and delivered to the 9 ¼ address. She noted that seniors love it because they can be part of the menu creation and the food is fresh.

On a different note, Ms. Wartson also noted that there are Income Tax services to help the seniors. Also, June 15 will be an observance for World Elder Abuse Awareness Prevention. For that, KCCOA has partnered with Kings County and the District Attorney’s Office.

* **CSET Report** – Jerel Dutton reported for CSET, saying that a focus group is scheduled for today (March 18) at the Cutler-Orosi senior center and tomorrow (Mar 19) one is scheduled for the Porterville Senior center. Regarding senior meal service, approximately 3,000 congregate meals per month are being served (300 seniors) and 7,000 (400 seniors) for Home Delivered services. Nutrition program meals are prepared by Fresno-based Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC). He noted that CSET is now introducing alternative hot meals from local providers, but it is still in the early stages of development.

Additionally, a new substance abuse prevention awareness training is being given at the senior centers and also on the horizon, soon to be introduced, will be Zumba (exercise) classes.

This year’s Senior Day in the Park is scheduled for Friday, May 10th. The theme will be *Back to the Future*. There is a volunteer registration online. *Elvis* (tribute artist, Jeremy Pearce) is scheduled to be in attendance as part of the entertainment.

1. **Advisory Council Report**

* Bobbie Wartson, Council Chair, reported that on February 27, 2024, Advisory Council candidate, Robert Garcia, was appointed to Kings County Seat #7. Additionally, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors appointed Brian Poth to Seat #1 and Arturo Torres Montiel to Seat #2 on March 5, 2024. Council member Betsey Foote was also re-appointed to Seat # 5. Ms. Wartson said the Council continues to recruit additional members to fill its empty seats.

1. **Adjourn –**The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna Wild, K/T AAA Director