 GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

*To be approved on:* Minutes of the May 15, 2023,

July 17, 2023 In-person meeting

**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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Bobbie Wartson, Chair, Advisory Council

Marlene Chambers

Mary Thomas

Betsey Foote

Suzann Wray

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Mauro, Adult Services, Deputy Director

Dayna Wild, Division Mgr., Adult Srvcs.

Bonnie Quiroz, Senior Advocate

Rise VanTichelt, Adult Services Unit Mgr.

Israel Guardado, Admin Specialist, Aging

Aaron Gomes, Administrative Specialist

Rudy Porras, Administrative Aide

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

EricScott, Tulare Co. County Counsel

Jerel Dutton, CSET

Angel Avitia, CSET

Jason Kemp Van Ee, Kings Co.

Ernest Gibson, Adv Council candidate

Raquel Gomez, CSET

Deborah Edlund, Guest of Suzann Wray

1. **Call to Order** – Board Chair, Supervisor Vander Poel, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. **Introductions,** as above.
3. **Board Member Comments –** Supervisor Valero thanked CSET for organizing the Senior Day in the Park event at Mooney Grove Park and thanked them for continuing the tradition.
4. **Public Comment –** Advisory Council member, Suzann Wray complimented CSET for its immediate call back response when she had called them in need of help on an issue. She said the response was “above and beyond”.

Ms. Bobbie Wartson invited everyone to the Senior Health Fair on May 26 at the Hanford Civic Auditorium. She also noted there will also be an Elder Abuse Awareness (WEAAM) event June 15, in Armona.

1. **Approval of the Minutes of March 20, 2023** – Supervisor Valero motioned to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2023, Governing Board meeting; Supervisor Micari seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote. **(Valero/Micari)**
2. **Requests for Proposal (RFP) Results and Recommendations** – Israel Guardado reported on the 3 RFPs recently released; two for Senior Services - one in each County, Kings (23-03) and Tulare (23-01) and one for the Family Caregiving Support Program (23-02). A Letter of Intent (LOI), with a deadline of March 27, 2023, was required for K/T AAA to consider any application. K/T AAA received one LOI for RFP 23-03 (Kings Co. services) and two Letters of Intent were received for RFP 23-01 (Tulare Co. services). LOI were received from Kings County Commission on Aging, KCCOA, for providing services in Kings County (23-03) and two LOI were received for the Tulare Co. RFP, one from CSET and one from Valley Caregivers Resource Center, later withdrawn. Approval was requested from the Board for the senior services contract for Tulare Co. (23-01) as a non-competitive award, to be granted as a sole responder to CSET and approval to award the senior services contract for Kings Co, (23-03) also as a non-competitive award, as sole responder, to Kings County Commission on Aging.

Regarding the RFP for Family Caregiving Support (23-02) in Tulare County: The current contract(s) for these services are held by Valley Caregiver Support Center (VCRC), based out of Fresno, and Valley Adult Day Services (VADS), based in Porterville. Two LOI were received - both from the current contractors. K/T AAA convened an evaluation panel that met twice, on May 2 and on May 8 for a round table. Each contractor was evaluated and scored on certain criteria. VADS scored 566(75%) and VCRC scored 638 (85%). The biggest concern was that VADS no longer conducts single audits, as it does not meet the threshold that would trigger an audit requirement. The evaluation panel determined it is still a best practice to do so. Recommendation was that the contract be awarded at 50% of available funding to each, contingent on a contractual obligation being an annual audit must be performed by both applicants whether they meet the single audit threshold or not. The request to the Board was that VCRC and VADS be awarded at 50% of available funds to each applicant.

Supervisor Vander Poel questioned whether points were awarded toward local presence, to which Mr. Guardado replied that no weight was given to that criterion in the RFP, although preference was expressed for local presence in the RFP. Supervisor Vander Poel said he would like to see that given specific weight – to support local entities. Ms. Dayna Wild commented also that VADS has a new Director, so that may have contributed to the score variation between its previous RFP and the currently issued one.

Supervisor Micari motioned that the contract awards be granted per the recommendations; Supervisor Robinson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by voice vote. **(Res. No. 23-005 Micari/Robinson)**

1. **Approval of the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 Modernizing the Older Californians Supportive Services Contract OM-2223 –** Prior to explaining contract OM-2223, Mr. Guardado requested permission to include on the agenda along with it, an additional contract that was released by CDA after the agenda had been created. The additional contract is NM-2324-15 (Nutrition only). It was noted that contract OM-2223-15 is for supportive services, in the amount of $850,989, with a retro-active term from January 1, 2023, to March 2025 for its first-year budget period; then July 1, 2023, to March 31, 2026, for its second-year budget period. A Program Memo has not yet been released for this contract. The two areas K/T AAA will most likely focus on are Caregiving Respite and Aging in Place because they fit nicely into K/T AAA’s current programs.

**Contract NM-2324-15** has similarly staggered terms, with its focus on nutrition, including nutrition infrastructure, groceries, inter-generation activities, congregate and home-delivered meals. It was noted that infrastructure funds would only be available during year 1. Both contracts are State funding that K/T AAA has not received before. The Board was asked to give its approval to receive these funds. On a motion from Supervisor Valero, seconded by Supervisor Robinson, the action item passed unanimously. **(Res. Nos. 23-006 & 23-006A Valero/Robinson)**

1. **Approval of the FY23/24 CA Dept of Aging Contract AP-23/24-15 and MSSP MS-23/24-33 –** Mr. Guardado said these are two of the more routine contracts. The Area Plan grant (AP-23/24-15) is K/T AAA’s main source of funding. It allows K/T AAA to provide the Older Americans Act (OAA) services such as Information and Assistance (I & A); legal services; Ombudsman services; nutrition services, both congregate and home-delivered; disease prevention; and elder abuse prevention, to name a few. These funds get distributed to the Agency’s community senior services providers. It was noted that this contract has seen increases, mostly in State funding, more and more. Contract amount: $3,533,341.

**MSSP MS-23/24-33** isin the amount of $1,087,268, which is not changed from the prior year’s funding amount**.** On a motion from Supervisor Micari, seconded by Supervisor Valero, the motion to accept these two contracts passed unanimously by voice vote. **(Res.** **No. 23-007 Micari/Valero)**

1. **Approval of FY 22/23 CDA Contract PH-2223-15 –** This contract’s term is retroactive back to January 1, 2022, and runs through September 30, 2023, in the amount of $117,915. Mr. Guardado said this is a new contract to K/T AAA and the Agency still does not have much information or details on it. The purpose is to expand the Public Health workforce in the Aging network, including support, hiring additional staff, outreach, or to facilitate additional hours. Its funds are an off shoot of ARPA funding. K/T AAA has reached out to the Tulare County Public Health Program to develop a possible partnership. Supervisor Valero motioned to accept this contract, Supervisor Micari seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote. **(Res. No. 23-008 Valero/Micari)**
2. **Approval of the K/T AAA Area Plan Update (APU) 2023/2024** **–** The APU is due to the State by May 1st; however, K/T AAA requested an extension, which CDA granted in order to get the Governing Board’s final approval on the document. A summary of changes to the document was provided to the Board, which Mr. Guardado further explained. It was also explained that not a lot of changes were made to this Update or to the last several years due to Covid and the difficulties it presented. This APU is the last update for the current Area Plan cycle. Next year, the K/T AAA will be creating a whole new Area Plan. Mr. Guardado stated that K/T AAA has been receiving more and more State funding (49%) versus Federal funding (42%). County funding accounts for approximately 3% of K/T AAA funding and *Letters-to-File* approximately 4%. It was noted that Public Hearings were conducted on April 19 at the Hanford Senior Center (9 attendees) and on April 26 at the Cutler-Orosi Senior Center (14 participants). The hearing in Cutler-Orosi was conducted in both English and Spanish. On a motion from Supervisor Valero, seconded by Supervisor Micari, the APU was approved to be submitted to the CDA. **(No. 23-009 Valero/Micari)**
3. **Amendments to FY21/22 CDA Contracts, signed by K/T AAA Director –** Mr. Guardado said this is an information item because these are two amendments which the K/T AAA Director has the authority to sign. He said the TV-2122-15 is an amendment rather than a new contract because we received State funds in the prior year (OARR funding). The amendment is to allow enough time to spend the funds.

* **Title V/SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Prog.)**

*Contract TV-2122-15, Amendment #2*

With the MIPPA contract, K/T AAA received additional funding, ($51,137), but no changes in the duration of the term. This funding is part of the HICAP program and is used for helping to staff positions.

* **Medicare Improvements for Patients & Providers Act (MIPPA)**

*Contract MI-2223-15, Amendment #1 (through 8/31/2023)*

1. **Contract Authorities for FY23/24 –** Mr. Guardado said this is another information item. At the July meeting, staff expects to bring these contract authorities to the Board as action items. The Area Plan funds, approved in the earlier action item, will be divided up and contracted to our community providers as below.

Stated allocations reflect maximum amounts, subject to availability of Federal, State, and local funding, and may be subject to change. The Family Caregiving, Title III-E will be awarded based on the approval of the Board. Regarding the Prevention and Early Intervention (MH funding) for the HSSN program, Ms. Wild said that there have been problems with getting the participation numbers high enough to warrant the continuation of the HSSN program, which is run by VCRC. VCRC has asked to hold off a little longer from pulling or adjusting the funding. Talks are continuing to find a solution. Supervisor Vander Poel said he appreciates that efforts are being made to make any needed adjustments for more efficient use of the money.

Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA) $ 892,125

City of Tulare $ 274,201

Community Services & Employment (CSET) $ 1,826,803

Community Services and Employment TV $ 212,418

Family Caregiving Title III-E\* $ 181,050

Award will be based on RFP recommendations at 50% VADS and 50% VCRC

Prevention & Early Intervention (VCRC, tentative)\*\* $ 25,000

\*\*Mental Health funding for Homebound Senior Social Network (HSSN)

1. **Staff Reports**

* C4A Annual Meeting and Allied Conference Report – Rise VanTichelt said staff just returned from the C4A conference, with approximately 7 K/T AAA staff attending and several CSET people as well and Bobbie Wartson from KCCOA. The predominant topic this year was homelessness and affordable housing.
* Farmers Market Coupons for the 2023 season – Bonnie Quiroz reported that we have gotten word from the CDFA that we will be receiving the vouchers in June, but they are running late. She also reported that Porterville is working on re-opening its certified market. The coupons are split between Kings and Tulare County. The K/T AAA has already been getting many calls inquiring about the program. Each booklet contains $50 worth of coupons in $10 increments.
* World Elder Abuse Awareness event – John Mauro announced that the Elder Abuse Awareness month starts in approximately two weeks. (May 30, 2023) The event will begin at 8:30a.m. A breakfast will be served. Discussions and the reading of the Proclamation will begin about 9 a.m., with the whole program to last about 1 hour.
* Senior Day in the Park (CSET) – Angel Avitia and Jerrel Dutton reported that this year’s Senior Day in the Park, held on May 5, had great weather and despite the 3-year hiatus it turned out to be a really great event. Partnerships with K/T AAA staff, Visalia Transit, Rosa Brothers, and others helped to make it a wonderful event. There were over 1,000 participants, 52 exhibitor booths, and 136 volunteers. Also, there was media coverage from ABC 30.
* Senior Center openings (CSET) – It was reported that 5 out of 8 Senior Centers are open at this time. Interviews are currently being conducted and the next center it is hoped to have opened, is Exeter. Within the next 3 months the effort is to have all the centers open. Supervisor Vander Poel asked for a comment on the attendance that they are seeing at the re-opened senior centers, especially pre-Covid versus currently. Current numbers are approximately 20-25 seniors daily (noting it was higher prior to Covid). The Earlimart center has 30-35 attendees daily. There was a discussion about the cost of transportation to get to the center, which has increased, and ways to bring that cost down.

Ms. Wartson reported on the Kings County centers, saying that all the Kings Co. centers and the adult day care were closed on the day of the Senior Day in the Park so seniors could attend the event. She arranged a charter bus for the seniors and for the Avenal Center, a KART bus that had been donated was used to bring those seniors to the event.

Ms. Wartson commented that prior to Covid, the Hanford 91/4 Center had approximately 13-15 seniors attending, and now it has 50+ senior attendees, per day. Meals are being prepared on-site at the Kings County centers, instead of Adventist Hospital or EOC, and the senior prefer it.

1. **Advisory Council Report**

* Bobbie Wartson, Council Chair, announced that there is a perspective new candidate to be appointed to the Council to represent Tulare County and that the Council continues its recruiting efforts.

1. **Adjourn –** The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna Wild, K/T AAA Director