 GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

*To be approved on:* Minutes of the October 16, 2023,

January 22, 2024 In-person meeting - Cutler Senior Center

**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

Betsey Foote

Suzann Wray

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Mauro, Adult Services, Deputy Director

Dayna Wild, Division Mgr., Adult Srvcs.

Dori Silveria, Unit Manager, Aging Services

Lisa Avila, Unit Manager, Aging Services

Bonnie Quiroz, Senior Advocate

Rise VanTichelt, Adult Services Unit Mgr.

Jennifer Rodriquez, Senior Services Supervisor

Israel Guardado, Administrative Specialist

Aaron Gomes, Administrative Specialist

Rudy Porras, Administrative Aide

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Charles Felix, Tulare Co. County Counsel

Jerel Dutton, CSET

Angel Avitia, CSET

Jason Kemp Van Ee, Kings Co.

Arturo Torres Montiel, Adv. Council candidate

Raquel Gomez, CSET

Robert Garcia, Adv Council candidate

Miriam Juarez-Bermudez & father, guests

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 –** None
4. **Public Comment**

* Miriam Juarez-Bermudez and Arturo Torres Montiel, Advisory Council candidates introduced themselves to the Council and to the Governing Board Supervisors.
* Ms. Bobbie Wartson, thanked everyone that attended the Kings Co. Senior Day in the Park event and gave a special *thank you* to the Tulare County staff that came to help and support the event.
* Angel Avitia (CSET) welcomed everyone to the Cutler Senior Center.
* Several seniors from Ivanhoe asked if there is any chance that a center might be opening in the Ivanhoe area, noting that in the past there was a center but that it was closed due to funding issues.
* Council member Suzann Wray reported on some of the renovations and improvements being implemented in Cutler-Orosi area.
* Council member Betsey Foote reported that she recently attended the National Indian Council on Aging in North Carolina, and while there she was appointed as a representative to fill a vacancy in our region. The conference helps to shape policies and laws that affect Native elders.

1. **Approval of the Minutes of July 17, 2023** – Supervisor Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2023, Governing Board meeting; Supervisor Micari seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote. **(Robinson/Micari)**
2. **Approval of the California Health Advocates (CHA) Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Contract** – Israel Guardado said this is a contract to accept funding from the California Health Advocates to fund the Senior Medicare Patrol and is used to supplement the HICAP program. It is a routine contract aimed at training and outreach for the Volunteer Coordinator and for fraud prevention related to Medicare. It is a contract that is received annually (currently at $10,000). On a motion by Supervisor Valero, seconded by Supervisor Micari, the motion passed unanimously. **(Res. No. 23-013 Valero/Micari)**
3. **Amendment #3 to FY21/22 CA Dept of Aging HICAP Contract HI-2122-15 –** Mr. Guardado explained that this is an amendment to an existing K/T AAA contract that was initially received in FY21-22. It has been amended three times, with the term of the contract also being extended. This amendment comes with $14,957 and will go through March of 2024. He said that usually contract amendments are brought to the Board as information items, with the K/T AAA Director signing them. Due to a business practice change by CDA, which now requires a resolution to be signed by the Board, this amendment is being brought to the Board, in order to have the current resolution signed - as the original contract resolution was done prior to the time when CDA required the Board signature. On a motion by Supervisor Micari, seconded by Supervisor Fagundes, the motion passed unanimously. (**Res. No. 23-014 Micari/Fagundes)**
4. **CDA Contract Amendment Updates –** These are informational updates on the following contracts:

**Title V/ Senior Community Service Employment Program (TV-2122-15)** – amendment extends the term of the contract through June 2024. This contract includes OARR funding that was slated to end in September. This amendment extends the duration of the time to be able to use the funds but does not change the dollar amount.

**Digital Connections (DC-2223-15)** **–** The amendment to this contract also extends the term of the contract to September 2024, with no change to the amount of the funding.

1. **Master Plan on Aging (MPA) Community Forum –** Dayna Wild reported that in response to Governor Newsom’s Master Plan on Aging resolution, giving priority to the well-being of older Californians, including housing, transportation, caregiving support, etc., a local Master Plan on Aging Committee was formed to design a plan locally to achieve the MPA goals. She said the K/T AAA has had the good fortune of having the help of Dr. Helen Miltiades. Dr. Miltiades applied for and received a grant from the Scan Foundation and has been taking the lead, along with the help of many community leaders, in building a plan for the Kings and Tulare area. Local priorities include housing insecurity, food insecurity, caregiving support, transportation, and outreach. Part of the grant required creating a community forum to share the plan with the community. This event is free and will take place on October 19, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Visalia Wyndham Hotel. There will be several dignitaries and guest speakers.
2. **Staff Reports**

* **Annual Holiday Stocking for Seniors Project –** Rise VanTichelt reported that coming into the holiday season, the K/T AAA is starting to gear up for the Holiday Stockings for Seniors project, which aims to bring each senior client holiday cheer by providing a holiday stocking to them filled with lots of treats and useful items, including beanies, lap blankets, gloves, warm socks, toiletries, etc.
* **Senior “Playground”** – Ms. Wild reported that she is bringing this idea to the Board to get its feedback and suggestions on the idea. She noted that Merced County has created a “senior playground” at a cost of approximately 1.5 million dollars, and that there have been suggestions that such a senior playground be developed locally. It was noted that K/T AAA does not have this type of funding available, although there are grants that can be applied for. The park in Merced is next to senior housing. Ms. Wild suggested that survey questions be included in a survey that will be going out to local seniors. Supervisor Vander Poel said this could potentially draw interest but would also require committed partner organizations to bring it to fruition, and transit would also need to be considered in order to make it accessible to people at a broad range of locales to make it be truly considered.
* **Kings County Commission on Aging (KCCOA) Report** – Bobbie Wartson, Director of KCCOA reported that KCCOA will also be distributing holiday gifts out to Kings County homebound seniors. She said the seniors are able to submit “gift wishes” and gift cards are available through generous donations from local business supporters. Ms. Wartson also related the story of one of the people who always donated generously to KCCOA during the holidays but passed away several years ago. As it turns out, he had left a large bequest in his will for KCCOA that she had only recently found out about.
* **CSET Report** – Angel Avitia introduced the Cutler Senior Center Site Manager, and other CSET staff who he noted work tirelessly “behind the scenes” to make sure everything goes on smoothly. He also announced that the CSET is working on opening the Exeter Center soon, with interviews underway. Additionally, he mentioned that CSET is working on incorporating youth and seniors to create inter-generational activities and holiday events.

1. **Advisory Council Report**

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

1. **Adjourn –**The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna Wild, K/T AAA Director