 GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

*To be approved on:* Minutes of the Oct. 17, 2022, meeting

January 23, 2023 Both in-person and Tele-conference

(Zoom) access

**GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Craig Pedersen, Kings Co. – Dist. 4

Richard Fagundes, Kings Co. – Dist. 5

Pete Vander Poel, – Dist. 2

Eddie Valero, Tulare Co. – Dist. 4 (via Zoom)

Larry Micari, Tulare Co. – Dist. 1

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Bobbie Wartson, Chair, Advisory Council

Dan Fox, Vice Chair, Advisory Council

Marlene Chambers

Mary Thomas

Marianne Osborne

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Mauro, Adult Services, Deputy Director

Dayna Wild, Division Mgr., Adult Srvcs.

Rise VanTichelt, Adult Services Unit Mgr.

Israel Guardado, Admin Specialist, Aging

Christine Tidwell, Administrative Aide

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Raquel Gomez, CSET

Eric Scott, Tulare Co. County Counsel

Brian Beck, City of Tulare

Ashlee Winslow, Tulare Senior Center

Angel Avitia, CSET

Rocio Duran, CSET

Jason Kemp Van Ee, Kings County

1. **Call to Order** – Board Chair, Supervisor Pedersen called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
2. **Adoption of Resolution for Remote Attendance Pursuant to AB 361 –** Adopt resolution setting forth findings required under Assemble Bill 361 allowing K/T AAA to continue holding its meetings remotely according to the modified Brown Act teleconferencing provisions set forth in AB 361. Supervisor Vander Poel moved to approve, Supervisor Fagundes seconded the motion, which passed*.* **(Vander Poel/Fagundes)**
3. **Introductions –** As above. (Dayna Wild called roll for the Zoom attendees.)
4. **Board Member Comments –** None
5. **Public Comment**

* Ms. Bobbie Wartson reported out on the Kings County Senior Picnic in the Park held in September.

Over 500 people attended, and several Kings Co. Board Supervisors participated. The meal was catered, and she noted that the weather was beautiful that day and it was an all round success.

* Raquel Gomez, CSET, reported that CSET has conducted several wellness events. She noted that the Cutler-Orosi event was competing with the Raisin Festival, so attendance was not as high as expected, but the event in Porterville was a hit, with over 100 people participating. She also reported that the Porterville Senior Center is now open and has had steady attendance. CSET continues to do promotion for the open senior centers and to get the word out.

1. **Approval of the Minutes of May 16 and August 3, 2022** – Supervisor Fagundes motioned to approve the minutes of the May 16, and August 3, 2022, Governing Board meetings; Supervisor Vander Poel seconded the motion which passed by voice vote. Both sets of minutes were approved by one action. **(Fagundes/Vander Poel)**
2. **Approval of the California Dept. of Aging FY22/23 Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MI-22/23-15 MIPPA) Contract**– Israel Guardado reported that this is a request for the Board to approve the FY22/23 MIPPA contract in the amount of $46,190. This contract augments the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) funding. It helps to fund positions such as the Volunteer Coordinator and Office Assistant positions, etc.– helping to support the HICAP mission. On a motion from Supervisor Vander Poel, seconded by Supervisor Micari, the motion passed 4/0 by voice vote.

**(Res. No. 22-013 (Vander Poel/Micari)**

1. **Approval of the CDA FY22/23 Senior Nutrition Infrastructure Contract (NI – 2223-15) –** Mr. Guardado reported that this funding is one-time funding and is not received annually. The funding is for infrastructure purchases, with the focus to purchase equipment that will bolster or support the Senior Nutrition Program. At the May 2022, Board meeting, an action item was voted on by the Board to submit an application for this grant, along with anticipated expenses, outlined, totaling $801,415. The contract is for that full amount requested. Supervisor Vander Poel asked for an example of the items being purchased. Mr. Guardado said these include refrigerated vans, conveyor belts, furniture, prep tables, microwave ovens, refrigerators, computer monitors, and dishwashers, to name a few. On a motion to accept by Supervisor Micari, seconded by Supervisor Fagundes, the Board voted to approve this item. **(Res. No. 22-014 Micari/Fagundes)**
2. **Approval of the SNAP-Ed/CalFresh Expansion contract (CF-2223-15) –** Mr. Guardado said this contract is related to the expansion of CalFresh benefits to SSI/SSP recipients who previously were not eligible for CalFresh benefits. This contract is targeted to that population, who are primarily seniors and disabled. Funding is used to support staff in the MSSP and HICAP programs and Administration. When staff meet with clients, staff provides outreach information to the clients. The term of the contract is to September 30, 2025. Contract amount is $206,676. Supervisor Fagundes motioned to adopt the resolution; Supervisor Micari seconded the motion, which carried. **(Res. No. 22-015 Fagundes/Micari)**
3. **Request for Proposal (RFP)Discussion–** This is an information item. Mr. Guardado reported that several RFP will be issued this year for K/T AAA contracts. Due to the Covid pandemic, the CDA allowed the postponement of several RFP. This flexibility allowed the K/T AAA to issue emergency contracts instead. However, now there are several RFP that need to be issued, as follows: Tulare Co. Senior Services, Kings Co. Senior Services, Tulare Co. Family Caregiver Support Services, and Nutrition and Intergenerational Activities, which is a new contract to supplement the Nutrition Program and will possibly need an RFP, also. It was noted that the Board will be given updates as the process gets underway.
4. **Report on Senior Centers –** Dayna Wild reported that the Agency is waiting for additional guidance from the State on how to re-open the Senior Centers. The State has said they can be opened, but not given information on how to open and how to transition seniors from home delivery back to congregate-meal eligibility. She said there are workgroups that are keeping an eye on what is being done, noting that many seniors do not necessarily want to go to a senior center anymore. They either prefer Grab and Go meals, which are destined to be discontinued. The centers provide socialization opportunities for the seniors, which is considered a necessary component.

Raquel Gomez, CSET, reported that outreach is being done to find out what the community is comfortable doing and to develop a procedure to bring seniors back safely to the sites and mitigate concerns. She noted that the first day that Porterville was open, 40 seniors attended, but that number then began to dwindle. She said seniors want to be able to come into the sites to say, “hello”, but also want their meals home delivered, which the program can not do with its limited resources.

Ms. Bobbie Wartson reported that the Corcoran Center (Kings Co.) opened with 55-60 seniors attending, but she has learned that K/T AAA cannot go back to running the centers the same way it had before the pandemic because the seniors will not show up, including but not limited to the quality of the meals served. It was noted that it is difficult to get approved meals due to the heavy dietary regulations that the CDA imposes. Ms. Wartson said after an increase in the current meal provider’s proposed costs from $5.17/meal to 6.27/meal, she arranged to have the meals prepared at the senior sites. The seniors were given the option to either stay with the frozen meals delivery or come to the center for hot (catered) meals and most chose the hot meals – noting that the center became redolent with the smells of the delicious meals cooking, which was a convincing factor in their decision. Additionally, the Avenal center will be opening soon, and it was reported that in the Corcoran center, they have provided two sewing machines (for sewing classes), and a pop corm popper to spruce up the environment.

Ms. Wild also said that another challenge is that the Nutrition Program is supposed to be overseen by a Registered Dietician to inspect kitchens and meals, but K/T AAA has been unable to hire someone for that position. Currently, K/T AAA is in the final stages of completing a contract, but she noted that the professionals are just not available to fill these positions.

Ashlee Winslow, City of Tulare Senior Center Site Manager reported that they have been open, but the seniors prefer Grab and Go meals and are concerned for their own health and the health of those that are in their care, so are reluctant to come into the center on a regular basis. The Grab and Go meal count is approximately 120+, with the Home-Delivered meal count at about 35 or 40. Brian Beck, the Recreation Manager of the City of Tulare for over 25 years (which oversees the Tulare Senior Center,) said that he has seen the fluctuation of numbers over the years. He said the City Council is very happy to know that 130 meals a day are being provided to the citizens of Tulare. He noted there will be a lot to figure out and manipulate and move around but it’s been huge for the Senior Center. Ms. Wild suggested the possibility of a letter of support from the Board, advocating for the State to allow for the flexibility of alternative meal distribution, such as Grab and Go meals, along with adequate, sustainable funding.

1. **Staff Reports**

* **Stockings for Seniors** – Rise VanTichelt reported that the holiday stocking drive had begun its efforts for this year, including distribution of collection bins for items and doing outreach to local businesses to generate monetary donations. Also, several fundraising campaigns have been arranged. The stockings are distributed to home-bound seniors.
* **Farmers Market Coupons** – A brief review of the coupon distribution for this year was given. This year the coupon booklets had $50 worth of coupons. These booklets are divided between Kings and Tulare County on the regular funding split, 23% to Kings County; 77% Tulare County, based on senior population. The coupons are distributed at local certified Farmers Markets. The CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) funds the program.
* **Ricciardi, Inc. Single Audit Report** –Israel Guardado report that the audit (for 2021) went well, with no reported findings. Each Board member has received a copy of the audit report.
* **Provider Contract Amendments –** Mr. Guardado reported that funding from additional funding streams, including the Cares Act and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding have been distributed out to the K/T AAA providers in amendments to their contracts.
* **Meeting Location Change for Future Meetings –** Ms. Wild announced that the location for future Governing Board meetings will likely be changing since the current location is a bit small. More information will follow.

1. **Advisory Council Report**

* It was noted that Council member, Mary Thomas, would be stepping down off the Council at the end of the year.
* ABC Committee – Dan Fox reported out on the Committee’s efforts to review the Area Plan and to look at some of the responsibilities contained within it, including an annual Senior Day in the Park event and Senior Center activities, as well as Nutrition, especially congregate meals.
* CSL Annual Meeting – Dan Fox, the CSL Assembly person for the K/T AAA, noted that this year’s annual meeting was being held virtually, which was disappointing to him because he was looking forward to being at the Capitol in Sacramento, (which is being re-modeled). Ms. Wartson, CSL Senator, reported that several of the recent CSL proposals have made it to the “bill” stage for the regular legislature’s consideration.

1. **Adjourn –** Supervisor Pedersen said that he would be ending his Supervisory position with Kings County at the end of the year, so this current meeting would be his last Governing Board meeting. He thanked everyone for their service to the K/T AAA. The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Ortiz, K/T AAA Director

Dayna Wild, Division Manager Adult Services (designee)