

SENIOR SERVICES

Traditionally the Kings Tulare Area Agency on Aging (KTAAA) has provided services for senior citizens in Tulare County. During the fiscal year July 2013-June 2014 several factors resulted in the contracting out of services provided in Title III and Title VII-B, Older Americans Act to Community Services Employment Training (CSET). Certain services such as senior centers, senior meals, disease prevention/health promotion and prevention of elder abuse were to be provided by CSET. The 2013/2014 Tulare County Grand Jury decided to investigate how the transition of KTAAA and CSET working together would impact our senior citizens. The jury found that none of the previously available services were cut and, due to the combining of financial resources, actually increased or expanded.



July 21, 2014

The Honorable Judge Gary Paden
County Civic Center, Room 303
221 S. Mooney Blvd
Visalia, CA 93291

Dear Judge Paden:

On behalf of the Governing Board, the following is the Board's response to the findings and a recommendation included in the 2013-2014 Tulare County Grand Jury Report titled *Senior Services*.

Finding 1

The Grand Jury found that all services previously available prior to the contract implementation are still in place. As a result of the increase in financial resources, the Community Services Employment Training has been able to increase and expand the services available to seniors in the community.

Response: The Board agrees with the finding.

Finding 2

Approximately 1,300 meals will be served on Senior Day thanks to the continued financial security which comes as a result of the transition from Kings Tulare Area Agency on Aging to Community Services Employment Training.

Response: The Board agrees with the finding.

Finding 3

Difficulties at the Goshen Senior Center will be resolved once the prior site is retrofitted. The newly retrofitted enter will preclude the problems of accessibility and the transportation issue. Once the original Senior Center reopens, the activities will not be limited to two days per week.

Response: The Board agrees with the finding.

Laura A. Silva, Director

5957 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, California 93277
559-624-8000
Fax 559-737-4694
www.ktaaa.org

Governing Board

Supervisor Richard Fagundes, Chair
Supervisor Tony Barba Supervisor Allen Ishida, Vice Chair
Supervisor Pete Vander Poel Supervisor Mike Ennis

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Finding 4

The new Community Services Employment Training management is very active and involved in the development of the Cutler-Orosi Senior Center and making sure that the seniors are aware of programs that are readily available to them. The participating seniors are extremely enthusiastic over new programs such as computer research, computer repair and income tax services.

Response: The Board agrees with the finding.

Finding 5

At the time of the Grand Jury's visit, the Earlimart Senior Center was lively; the participants were all active in art work, table games, and physical fitness activities. Engaging in conversation is always encouraged and provides for an exchange of thoughts and ideas.

Response: The Board agrees with the finding.

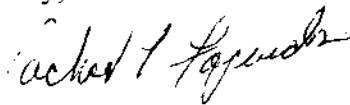
Recommendation 1

The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends that the Kings Tulare Area Agency on Aging require an increase in hours of service and increase in activity by the end of the fiscal year 2013/2014 as a condition of the contract with Community Services Employment Training.

Response: This recommendation has already been implemented.

Community Services and Employment Training (CSET) exceeded fiscal year 2013/2014 contractual goals for all programs. This was done independently of any additional contract conditions from the Kings/Tulare Area Agency on Aging. For instance, the hours of service at the Porterville Senior Center have been extended to eight hours per day, five days per week. Additionally, the Lindsay Senior Center has increased its days of service from four days to five days per week. As participation continues to increase, CSET will consider offering additional hours of service at the other senior centers.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Richard Fagundes
Governing Board Chair
Kings/Tulare Area Agency on Aging

cc: Tulare County Grand Jury
Tulare County Board of Supervisor