

4-11-08
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THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA # *A-4b.

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE April 22, 2008

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Proclamation of the Month of May 2008 as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Proclaim May 2008 as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this agenda item.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2008-273

On motion of Supervisor Grover, Seconded by Supervisor DeMartini
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Grover, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman Mayfield

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

- 1) Approved as recommended
- 2) Denied
- 3) Approved as amended
- 4) Other:

MOTION:

Christine Ferraro

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

DISCUSSION:

Each year hundreds of thousands of older, frail and vulnerable citizens are abused, neglected and exploited by family members and others. Although all 50 states have laws against elder abuse, the incidents of abuse have increased by 150 percent over the last ten years.

In California, Adult Protective Services received 113,066 reports of abuse to elders and dependent adults in 2007. In this same time period, Stanislaus County Adult Protective Services program received 2,130 reports of abuse to elders and dependent adults. This is estimated to be only about one quarter of the abuse that actually occurs.

Whether the abuse is financial, physical, emotional or basic neglect, our senior citizens and disabled adults have the right to protection under the law even from members of their own family. Statistics show that in 90 percent of all cases of elder abuse, the perpetrator is a family member, generally a child or spouse. Victims may be embarrassed, intimidated or overwhelmed by the situation. They may be afraid of reprisal by their abuser or unaware that there is help available.

Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse is an issue that no one should ignore. All citizens, especially our most vulnerable citizens, should be able to live safe, secure lives, without fear, neglect, pain or exploitation. There are many ways to learn about adult abuse, as well as what can be done to prevent it.

In an effort to enhance elder and dependent adult abuse prevention and facilitate intervention, a collaborative approach has created partnerships with the Adult Protective Services program, Public Guardian, Ombudsman, District Attorney, law enforcement, local fire departments, financial institutions, AARP, Stanislaus Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance (SEAPA), Area Agency on Aging, utility companies, health services, and various other organizations. These partnerships have taken on the responsibility of elder abuse education, advocacy, training, and problem solving with outreach efforts throughout the community. These agencies also participate in the Stanislaus County Adult Multi-Disciplinary team, whose purpose is to develop treatment strategies, maximize coordination, access community resources, and avoid duplication of efforts.

As our population ages and the escalation of abuse continue, it is imperative that both professionals and laypersons become more aware of the scope and issues surrounding this sensitive topic.

POLICY ISSUE:

Proclaiming May as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month, calls attention to increased incidents of elder abuse and to Stanislaus County's Adult Protective Services program as it confirms the Community Services Agency's effort to meet the Board's priority of a safe community.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact associated with this request.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Date: April 22, 2008

No. 2008-273

On motion of Supervisor Grover Seconded by Supervisor DeMartini

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Grover, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman Mayfield

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

Item # *A-4b

Proclamation of the Month of May 2008 as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Every year, more than two million of disabled and elderly citizens are victims of physical and emotional abuse and neglect, and exploitation and they are denied many of their rights; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, Adult Protective Services received 113,066 reports of abuse to elders and dependent adults in California,

WHEREAS, In 2007, Adult Protective Services approximately 2,130 vulnerable adults were the victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation in Stanislaus County; and

WHEREAS, The health and well-being of disabled and elderly people in our state should be one of our highest priorities and of concern to all Americans; and

WHEREAS, No aspect of our society—technology, agriculture, science, religion, sports, education—would enjoy its current prominence without the contributions from those who are elderly or have disabilities; and

WHEREAS, We can all benefit from the wisdom and knowledge acquired by Americans who are elderly or have disabilities. The experience of their past can help our state meet the challenge of its future; and

WHEREAS, People who are elderly or have disabilities are among the most important resources of our County, State, and Nation it is fitting that we recognize the need to protect their health, safety, and rights; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, State of California, does hereby proclaim May 2008 as Stanislaus County Elder Abuse Awareness Month.

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,
State of California


