

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: <sup>mp</sup> Aging & Veterans Services

BOARD AGENDA # \*A-6a

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE September 9, 2008

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO   
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Proclaim the Week of September 21 through September 27, 2008, as "Fall Prevention Awareness Week" in Stanislaus County

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Proclaim the week of September 21 through September 27, 2008, as "Fall Prevention Awareness Week" in Stanislaus County.
- 2) Adopt a Resolution proclaiming September 21 through September 27, 2008, as "Fall Prevention Awareness Week" in Stanislaus County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2008-631

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, 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) X Approved as recommended

2) \_\_\_\_\_ Denied

3) \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as amended

4) \_\_\_\_\_ Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

**DISCUSSION:**

The week of September 21, 2008 has been declared "Fall Prevention Awareness Week" throughout the State by Senate Concurrent Resolution 77 (California Resolution Chapter 108 of 2008). In addition, at the Federal level the Safety of Seniors Act of 2007 was passed on April 23, 2008; this bill calls for the expansion of public health programs, educational outreach, and research activities related to fall prevention.

In Stanislaus County, the Area Agency on Aging through the Senior Fall Prevention Coalition, will be encouraging the community to conduct appropriate activities that promote awareness of fall prevention.

On October 27, 2008, the Stanislaus County Area Agency on Aging in partnership with the Healthy Aging Association, received a \$25,000 grant from the Archstone Foundation to form the Senior Fall Prevention Coalition. The Coalition's Mission Statement is *"To reduce the risk of falls and increase fall prevention awareness in a collaborative community effort through education, training, and implementation of best practice interventions for fall prevention."* Other partners of the Coalition include: AARP, Adult Protective Services, Advancing Vibrant Communities, American Medical Response, Catholic Charities, California State University Stanislaus, City of Modesto Fire Department, City of Modesto Parks, Recreation & Neighborhoods Department, Doctors Medical Center Foundation, Gentiva Home Health, Healthy Aging Association, Howard Training Center, Link2Care, Memorial Hospital Physical Therapy Department, Multipurpose Senior Service Program, Stanislaus County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Senior Access Team, Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, Stanislaus County Commission on Aging, and the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department Coroner's Office.

More than one in three people age 65 years or older falls each year. The risk of falling, and fall-related problems increases with age. Each year, more than 1.6 million older adults go to emergency rooms for fall-related injuries. Among older adults, falls are the number one cause of fractures, hospital admission for trauma, loss of independence, and injury deaths.

Many older adults are afraid of falling. This fear becomes more common as people age, even among those who haven't fallen. There are multiple contributing factors that may cause falls, including lack of strength in the lower extremities, the use of multiple medications, reduced vision, chronic health problems, and unsafe environments. However, falls are not an inevitable part of aging. There are proven strategies that can reduce falls and help older adults live better and longer.

The Senior Fall Prevention Coalition of Stanislaus County has identified several strategies to reduce falls, which include: community awareness and education, provider education and training programs, fall prevention coordination and assistance, physical activity including

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**Page 3**

balance, mobility, and strength training, and affordable home modification. The Coalition will use a coordinated system of fall prevention and mitigation programs that will provide a fall safety net for seniors and assist senior services and healthcare providers to address fall risk factors among seniors.

**POLICY ISSUES:**

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors should determine if proclaiming the week of September 21 through September 27, 2008, as "Fall Prevention Awareness Week" is consistent with the Board's priorities of a safe community, a healthy community and effective partnerships.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

There is no staffing impact associated with this item.

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

\*A-6a

Date: September 9, 2008

No. 2008-631

On motion of Supervisor Monteith 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:

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21 - 27, 2008  
AS "FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK"**

WHEREAS, it is estimated that nearly 14 percent of Stanislaus County citizens - over 539,299 people, are 65 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one-third of adults over the age of 60, and 50 percent of adults over the age of 80, will fall each year, with medical costs of each fall-related hospitalization in Stanislaus County is estimated at \$74,884.71; and

WHEREAS, falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among people over the age of 60, and the leading cause of doctor visits, hospital admissions, and emergency room visits; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, 1,326 older adults in Stanislaus County suffered injuries from a fall great enough to result in hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, falling, and the fear of falling, can lead to depression, isolation, diminished mobility, and loss of functional independence; and

WHEREAS, injuries from falls are a largely preventable community health problem; and

WHEREAS, the cause of falls is composed of multiple contributing factors including lack of strength in the lower extremities, the use of multiple medications, reduced vision, chronic health problems, and unsafe environments; and

WHEREAS, concentrated efforts are being made in Stanislaus County to reduce falls and fall related injuries by using multi-faceted interventions; and

(Continued on Page 2)

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



**WHEREAS**, at the State level, Senate Concurrent Resolution 77 (D-Lowenthal) 'Fall Prevention Awareness Week' was passed on August 7, 2008, and was recorded as California Resolution Chapter 108 of 2008 on August 11, 2008. This legislation declares the first week of fall each year as "Fall Prevention Awareness Week" throughout the State; and

**WHEREAS**, at the Federal level, the Safety of Seniors Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-202), was passed on April 23, 2008. This bill calls for the expansion of public health programs, educational outreach, and research activities related to fall prevention.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that this Board of Supervisors does hereby declare and proclaim the week of September 21-27, 2008, as "FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK" in Stanislaus County, and call upon our citizens and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate activities that promote awareness of fall prevention.