

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

*CSA*

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA # \*A-5

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE April 21, 2009

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO   
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

SUBJECT:

Proclamation of the Month of May 2009 as Older Americans Month and Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Proclaim May 2009 as Older Americans Month and Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month.
2. Issue a Resolution acknowledging the contributions of older persons in Stanislaus County.
3. Issue a Resolution to highlight the need for elder and dependent adult abuse awareness in Stanislaus County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this agenda item.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2009-240

On motion of Supervisor DeMartini, Seconded by Supervisor Grover

and approved by the following vote,

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

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:

*Christine Ferraro*

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

**DISCUSSION:**

In 1963, President John Kennedy designated the month of May as "Senior Citizens Month". In 1980, President Jimmy Carter renamed it "Older Americans Month" and as such, has become the tradition. Every President since John Kennedy has issued a formal proclamation for the month of May, asking the entire nation to pay tribute in some way to the older persons in their community.

A proclamation by the Board of Supervisors that the month of May is 'Older Americans Month' in Stanislaus County, and issuing a resolution acknowledging the contributions of older persons in Stanislaus County will pay respect to all senior citizens in Stanislaus County.

Respecting all senior citizens in Stanislaus County includes being aware of potential abuse for this aging population. 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 115,172 reports of abuse to elders and dependent adults in 2008. In this same time period, Stanislaus County Adult Protective Services program received 1,783 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 Community Services Agency Adult Protective Services program, Area Agency on Aging, Public Guardian, Ombudsman, District Attorney, law enforcement, local fire departments, financial institutions, AARP, Stanislaus Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance (SEAPA), 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.

A proclamation by the Board of Supervisors that the month of May is “Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month” heightening the awareness of elder and dependent adult abuse in Stanislaus County.

**POLICY ISSUE:**

Proclaiming May as Older Americans Month and Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month supports the Board’s priorities of a *Healthy Community* and a *Safe Community* by recognizing the importance of senior residents and the contributions they make to the county’s quality of life and by heightening the awareness of elder and dependent adult abuse in Stanislaus County.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

There is no staffing impact associated with this request.

**Proclaim the Month of May 2009 as Older Americans Month in Stanislaus  
County**

WHEREAS, the month of May is officially recognized as 'Older Americans Month'  
throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, Stanislaus County is home to 78,605 older adults;

WHEREAS, the older adults of Stanislaus County have made invaluable contributions  
to the growth and prosperity of our community; and

WHEREAS, older adults in Stanislaus County are among millions helping to redefine  
aging in America; and

WHEREAS, older adults are entitled to live healthier lives through a combination of  
independence and choice; and

WHEREAS, older adults need the assistance of their communities to thrive, including  
the understanding and support from their friends and family; and

WHEREAS, coordinated efforts to provide support on issues as diverse as  
housing, transportation, and health care can be vital to healthy aging and long-  
term living; and

WHEREAS, the aging population is growing and offering more wisdom to succeeding  
generations than ever before;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors does hereby  
declare and proclaim that the month of May, 2009 be, and hereby is, celebrated as  
'Older Americans' Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board will participate by passing resolutions  
based on recommendations of the Senior Awards Committee and presenting them to  
the five Outstanding Senior Award Winners at the May 19, 2009, Stanislaus County  
Board of Supervisors' meeting.

**Proclaim the Month of May 2009 as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse  
Awareness Month in Stanislaus County**

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

WHEREAS, in California, Adult Protective Services received 115,172 reports of abuse to elders and dependent adults last year; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, more than 1,783 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 2009 as Stanislaus County Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month.