

**County of Sonoma  
Agenda Item Summary Report**

Clerk of the Board Use Only  
Meeting Date  
\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Agenda Item No:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** Human Services

**4/5 Vote Required**

**Contact:**  
Diane Kaljian

**Phone:**  
(707) 565-5932

**Board Date:**  
5/12/09

**Deadline for Board Action:**  
5/12/09

**AGENDA SHORT TITLE:**  
Elder Abuse Prevention Month

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:**  
Approve resolution proclaiming May 2009 as Elder Abuse Prevention Month

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT**

**EXPENDITURES**

**ADDL FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL**

Estimated Cost	\$	000.00	Contingencies	\$	000.00
			(Fund Name: )		
Amount Budgeted	\$	000.00	Unanticipated Revenue	\$	000.00
			(Source: )		
Other Available Approp. (Explain Below)	\$	000.00	Other Transfer(s)		000.00
			(Source: )	\$	
Additional Requested:	\$	0.00	Total Source of Funds:	\$	0.00

**Explanation** (if required):

**Prior Board Action(s):**

Resolution #08-0435, dated 5/13/08, proclaiming May 2008 Elder Abuse Prevention Month

**Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:**

Elder Abuse Prevention month will not be proclaimed in Sonoma County.

**Background:**

May is Elder Abuse Prevention Month in California. The legislative intent is to urge Californians to be aware of elder abuse and to become educated about ways to prevent the mistreatment of vulnerable adults.

Elder abuse investigation and prevention are a high priority for the Human Services Department, Adult and Aging Division. Through the 24-hour hotline, Adult Protective Services (APS) received more than 2000 reports of suspected elder and dependent adult abuse in 2007-08 and the trend for 2008-09 indicates that the number of reports are continuing to increase; the report types included self-neglect (42%), neglect by others (24%), financial abuse (25%) and physical abuse (14%). [Due to reporting of more than one type of abuse, total exceeds 100%.] The National Elder Abuse Incidence Study indicates that less than one in five cases of all abuse is reported.

The Ombudsman Program investigates complaints made by or on behalf of the 4,000+ residents in Sonoma County's long-term care facilities. From July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 the Ombudsman Program made 833 visits to long-term care facilities, receiving 632 complaints. Three hundred thirty-two (332) of these complaints were reports of suspected elder and dependent abuse. The report types included neglect by others (63%), physical (27%), financial (9%), and mental abuse (2%).

In addition to receiving reports of suspected abuse, APS social workers, in collaboration with law enforcement and the District Attorney's Office, conducts investigations of allegations of elder abuse in order to intervene and protect vulnerable members of our community. Prosecutors from the Special Victims Unit of the District Attorney's Office specially handle all cases of elder physical abuse to ensure these sensitive cases receive the attention they deserve. Cases of financial elder abuse are also handled by one designated prosecutor who specializes in fraud cases. The DA's Victim Assistance Center coordinates victim advocacy, restitution, and claims for victims of crime, and conducts outreach to increase awareness to minimize the threats to our community's seniors. This effective collaboration is essential to the ongoing struggle against elder abuse.

The Elder Abuse Prevention Project (EAPP) was established in 1999. Its mission is to increase awareness, promote prevention strategies and reduce the incidence of elder/dependent adult abuse in Sonoma County, and has worked collaboratively to address this need. The EAPP initiative this year is to provide mandated reporter training, outreach and training for interested community members in elder abuse prevention and the role of APS and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

**Requested Board Action:**

Approve resolution proclaiming May 2009 as Elder Abuse Prevention Month.

**Attachments:**

Resolution

**On File With Clerk:**

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

**Board Action (If other than "Requested")**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Vote:**