



**Mendocino County
Department of Social Services**

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

**Bekkie F. Emery, Director
Kelsey Rivera, Assistant Director**



Re: Board Agenda Summary Item 3ai)
Date: June 19, 2023

Dear Mendocino Board of Supervisors,

The Board of Supervisors Agenda Summary for the meeting date June 20, 2023, reads item 3ai, Ukiah Senior Center Contract, in the amount of \$51,050 is funded through County General Fund. The contract in question was incorrectly identified with a funding source of "General Fund" on the Board Agenda Summary (BAS). The contract is in fact funded through Social Services Budget Unit 5010, through a combination of State and Federal Funding, and has no County General Funds Dollars associated. The error is specific to the BAS, the attached contract agreement for the item correctly lists the budget unit as 5010 within the appropriate funding sources.

On behalf of Social Services, I respectfully request the approval include the above modification. Please accept my apologies for this item funding source being incorrectly identified.

Benefits of Senior Centers

Recognized by the Older Americans Act (OAA) as a community focal point, senior centers have become one of the most widely used services among America's older adults. Senior centers work in partnership with other community agencies and organizations and businesses to provide access to an array of opportunities and services for older adult to stay safe, active, and healthy.

"Senior center - means a community focal point on aging, where older individuals as individuals or in groups come together for services and activities which enhance their dignity, support their independence, and encourage their involvement in and with the community. Senior center programs consist of a variety of services and activities in areas, such as education, creative arts, recreation, advocacy, leadership development, employment, health, nutrition, social work, and other supportive services."

[CA Welf & Inst Code § 9591](#)

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Is the Service Mandated?

Adult Protective Services (APS) is a mandated social services program provided by State and local governments serving older adult and adults with disabilities who need assistance because of abuse, neglect, self-neglect or financial exploitation. Adult Protective Services staff provide referrals to community Senior Centers for Financial Services.

APS mandate is described in WIC 15751 which provides that Each county welfare department shall establish and support a system of protective services to elderly and dependent adults who

may be subjected to neglect, abuse, or exploitation, or who are unable to protect their own interest. This system shall be known as the county adult protective services (APS) system.

WIC 15763 provides in part that each county should provide emergency response APS program which includes investigation of alleged abuse or self-neglect and shall provide services such as case management which includes stabilization and connection to community services. Financial Management for APS clients, as provided by the Ukiah Senior Center, is a critical service which helps to stabilize clients who cannot manage their own finances while long term solutions are located.

The Ukiah Senior Center serves as a liaison between Adult Protective Services and seniors in the community.

What does the Contract provide?

This contract is for the provision of Health and Welfare Information, Referral Support, and Financial Management for Elderly Individuals and Persons with Disabilities in the City of Ukiah and its surrounding areas. These funds ensure that the agency maintains an outreach staff person to carry out the provisions of this contract. Services include fostering community awareness of the Ukiah Senior Center and its resources, working with Adult Protective Services (APS) staff on individual case plans, as well as assisting clients with transportation as necessary. The contract also specifically funds financial management assistance for APS referred clients who would otherwise be at risk of homelessness and abuse if these services were not available.

Ukiah Senior Center Stat Highlights in support of Services Offered:

- Adult Protective Services (APS) referred 51 vulnerable elders to the Ukiah Senior Center to date in FY 22-23 for services such as the Friendship Line, Congregate Meals, Transportation, Financial Management, and Peer Counseling.
- An average of 4 individuals monthly have their finances managed by Ukiah Senior Center, as referred by APS for a total of 48 senior households per year on average.
- 14,509 individuals were served a meal in FY 22-23, with an average of 1,409 individuals served each month, and as many as 24 meals made available in a single month.
- An average of 1,809 individuals attended a class, program, or training to date in FY 22-23, for a total of 18,903 individual participants. Classes and Activities offered include Bingo, Tax Preparation, Quilting, Ice Cream Socials, Line Dancing, Computer Classes, and Exercise.

Some Highlights:

320 senior received tax preparation services
1,798 seniors participated in activities to support and sustain their mental well-being
4,672 individuals purchased home necessities through the thrift store
3,524 seniors utilized transportation services
425 seniors participated in group collaborative and engagement activities

6,070 seniors received information and referral services, for an average of 607 seniors monthly to date in FY 22-23. These supports include but are not limited to Medical Equipment, Medical Transportation, CalFresh application assistance, Medi-Cal/Medicare application assistance, Mental Health Services, Legal Assistance, Housing Assistance, and Food Bank Services.

Research shows older adults who participate in senior center programs can learn to manage and delay the onset of chronic disease and experience measurable improvements in their physical, social, spiritual, emotional, mental, and economic well-being.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bekkie F. Emery, Director
Social Services