



Mendocino County

Legislation Text

File #: 24-0546, Version: 1

To: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

From: Social Services

Meeting Date: June 4, 2024

Department Contact: Rachel Ebel-Elliott

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Department Contact: Stephen White

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Item Type: Consent Agenda

Time Allocated for Item: N/A

Agenda Title:

Adoption of Proclamation Recognizing June 2024, as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month in Mendocino County

Recommended Action/Motion:

Adopt proclamation recognizing June 2023, as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month in Mendocino County; and authorize the Chair to sign same.

Previous Board/Board Committee Actions:

Previous proclamations for Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month were adopted by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in June 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Summary of Request:

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was launched on June 15, 2006, by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations. Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of elder persons and dependent adults by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic situations affecting elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.

California has expanded the idea of WEAAD and now dedicates the entire month of June to Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness. Research shows that one in ten elder or dependent adults are victims of abuse or neglect. It also shows abuse is severely underreported, with agencies receiving one report of abuse for nearly every twenty-four cases of abuse. Education regarding what elder and dependent adult abuse is and how to report it is an important step towards making California safer for all people.

In 2023, Mendocino County Department of Social Services, Adult Protective Services (APS), received 1,423 reports of suspected elder or dependent adult abuse or neglect through various methods including our toll-free number 1-877-327-1799. Of the 1,423 reports received, 920 individuals required a full investigation and short-term case management to set up services and a safety net to prevent further harm. These reports were from all sectors and areas of the county. APS social workers respond to reports 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Educating the public about elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect means that more people will become aware of the issue in its many forms and provides a wider safety net for some of the most vulnerable members of our communities.

One recent innovation implemented by Mendocino County APS is the ability to make APS reports through an online portal at <https://mendocino.leapsportal.net/LEAPSIntake/NewPublicIntakeReport.aspx>. This functionality is especially helpful for Mandated Reporters in that it satisfies both the written and oral report requirements for those who care for elders and dependent adults.

Alternative Action/Motion:

Return to staff for alternative handling.

Strategic Plan Priority Designation: A Safe and Healthy County

Supervisory District: All

Vote Requirement: Majority

Supplemental Information Available Online At: <https://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/weaad-home/>

Fiscal Details:

source of funding: N/A

current f/y cost: N/A

budget clarification: N/A

annual recurring cost: N/A

budgeted in current f/y (if no, please describe): N/A

revenue agreement: N/A

AGREEMENT/RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE APPROVED BY COUNTY COUNSEL: N/A

CEO Liaison: Steve Dunncliff, Deputy CEO

CEO Review: Yes

CEO Comments:

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Executed By: Atlas Pearson, Senior Deputy Clerk

Final Status: **Adopted**

Date: June 4, 2024

