

County Of Sonoma Agenda Item Summary Report

Clerk of the Board Use Only

Meeting Date

Held Until

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Agenda Item No:

Agenda Item No:

Department: Human Services Department

4/5 Vote Not Required

Contact:
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Phone:
(707) 565-5950

Board Date:
11/10/2009

Deadline for Board Action:
11/10/2009

AGENDA SHORT TITLE: Family Caregivers Month.

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION: Resolution acknowledging Sonoma County family caregivers and proclaiming November as Family Caregivers Month.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT - None.

Explanation (if required):

Prior Board Action:

11/04/08 – Resolution #08-0924 proclaimed November 2008 as National Family Caregivers Month.

Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:

None

Background:

Numerous national organizations have joined together in declaring the month of November 2009 as National Caregivers Month. The goal is to raise public awareness about issues surrounding family caregiving, to empower family caregivers and to recognize, honor and support the daily contributions of family caregivers.

The Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging also acknowledges the work that family caregivers provide by recognizing November as National Family Caregivers Month. Every day in Sonoma County caregivers provide support and assistance to enable older adults and people with disabilities to remain independent in the community. Nearly one in four households in Sonoma County is caring for a person age 50 or older. These caregivers include spouses, adult children, and other relatives and friends. The Sonoma County AAA funds services that assist family caregivers.

In November 2004, a web-based survey for caregiving employees of four of Sonoma County’s largest employers was conducted. The goal of the survey was to gather information about senior caregiving issues. Nearly 400 self-selected family caregivers responded, providing insight into the multiple challenges that they encounter, while still finding satisfaction in their caregiving responsibilities. The majority (67%) of caregivers provide care to a senior living at home, while 12% provide care to someone living in the caregiver’s home and 16% provide care to an elderly person in a senior care facility.

Results of the caregiver survey remind us that families are the mainstay underpinning long-term care for older persons in the United States. More than 22.4 million persons are informal caregivers--providing unpaid help to older persons who live in the community and have at least one limitation on their activities of daily living.

The enactment of the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2000 established an important new program, the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). The program calls for all states, working in partnership with Area Agencies on Aging and local community-based agencies, to have services for caregivers. Sonoma County services include information to caregivers about available resources, assistance to caregivers in gaining access to services, support groups and caregiver training to assist caregivers in making decisions and solving problems relating to their caregiving roles and respite care to enable caregivers to be temporarily relieved from their caregiving responsibilities.

Recommended Action:

Resolution acknowledging Sonoma County family caregivers and proclaiming November as Family Caregivers Month.

Attachments:

Resolution

On File With Clerk:

None

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than “Requested”)

Vote: