



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: August 22, 2014
Board Meeting Date: September 9, 2014
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager

Subject: 2013-14 Grand Jury Response- Reducing the Incidents and Impact of Elder Financial Abuse in San Mateo County

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Board of Supervisors' response to the Grand Jury Report titled; "Reducing the Incidents and Impact of Elder Financial Abuse in San Mateo County."

BACKGROUND:

On July 1, 2014, the Grand Jury filed a report titled: Reducing the Incidents and Impact of Elder Financial Abuse in San Mateo County. Certain of its findings and recommendations were directed to the San Mateo County District Attorney ("District Attorney"), certain findings and recommendations were directed to the County, and one recommendation was directed at both the County and the District Attorney. The Board of Supervisors is required to submit comments on the findings and recommendations pertaining to the matters under control of the County of San Mateo within ninety days. The County's response to the report is due to the Hon. Dave Pine no later than September 29, 2014.

Acceptance of this report contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Collaborative Community by ensuring that all Grand Jury findings and recommendations are thoroughly reviewed by the appropriate County departments and that, when appropriate, process improvements are made to improve the quality and efficiency of services provided to the public and other agencies.

DISCUSSION:

Findings:

Grand Jury Finding Number 1. The County does not have any full-time staff members with responsibility for facilitating training of mandated reporters or developing outreach or education for the public in elder financial abuse.

Response: Agree.

Grand Jury Finding Number 2. Referrals for investigation of elder financial abuse in the County have been increasing over the past seven years, while programs and staff have decreased, leaving Adult Protective Services with fewer resources to pursue case management services.

Response: Agree.

Grand Jury Finding Number 3. Adult Protective Services has formed a Multi-Disciplinary Team to discuss general strategies for addressing all types of elder abuse, of which financial abuse issues are just one aspect. Multi-Disciplinary Team membership does not include consulting professionals from the private sector.

Response: Aging & Adult Services agrees with the finding in part, disagrees in part. While the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) is a forum for discussing general strategies, it is also used to discuss specific cases. The County MDT's list of members includes several outside professionals.

Recommendations:

The Grand Jury made the following recommendations pertaining to the County's Health System, Aging and Adult Services Division, Adult Protective Services, and the County makes the following responses:

1. By December 31, 2014, Adult Protective Services will develop a coordinated outreach effort involving all relevant County departments to further educate the public to identify and report elder financial abuse.

Response: This recommendation requires further study. Aging & Adult Services will analyze what additional resources would be needed to develop a coordinated outreach effort and consider this as part of budget planning for FY 2015-2016. Given the current caseloads and staffing levels of APS, such an effort would require that APS add staff, which would require a commitment of additional funds by the County.

2. By December 31, 2014, Adult Protective Services will develop and implement training programs for mandated reporters addressing elder financial abuse.

Response: This recommendation requires further study. Aging & Adult Services will analyze what additional resources would be needed to develop and implement training programs for mandated reporters addressing elder financial abuse and consider this as part of budget planning for the FY 2015-2016. . However, given the current caseloads and staffing levels of APS, such an effort will require that APS add staff, which would require a commitment of additional funds by the County.

3. By December 31, 2014, the District Attorney's office, in collaboration with Adult Protective Services, will implement the Financial Abuse Specialist Team model, to improve its current Multidisciplinary Team model, to include consulting community private sector financial specialists and to contribute to the investigation and resolution of elder financial abuse cases.

Response: This recommendation requires further study. Aging & Adult Services agrees that it is appropriate to implement a Financial Abuse Specialist Team, or similar model for addressing and responding to elder and dependent adult financial abuse in San Mateo County. However, Aging & Adult Services does not agree that this can be accomplished by December 31, 2014. Respondent is working with the District Attorney's office to consider the relative efficacy of various Financial Abuse Specialist Team models currently in place in certain other California counties. The implementation of a team that will address the needs of this County will require coordination, planning, and resources. Aging and Adult Services will research what additional staffing would be required and bring this forward for consideration as part of budget planning for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no Net County Cost associated with accepting this report.