



Monterey County

Board of Supervisors
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Board Report

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Receive an oral report on the Monterey County Department of Social Services Aging and Adult Services Branch.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Health, Housing and Human Services (HHHS) Committee of the Board of Supervisors receives an oral report from the Department of Social Services Aging and Adult Services Branch regarding its programs, initiatives and future endeavors.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The Aging and Adult Services' (AAS) mission is to empower and serve the aging population and persons living with disabilities to live safely and with dignity. According to the 2017 U.S. Census, American Community Survey, Monterey County's 60+ population increased by 3.3% between 2016 and 2017. It is estimated that one in five residents Monterey County residents will be 60 or older by 2020. The same expansion is occurring across California and the country. Estimates show that the senior age group will be larger than all those under 18 by the year 2030.

Because of this increased growth, the work of AAS is becoming increasingly important. AAS operates five vital programs essential in keeping individuals safe and well-cared for in their home environment: Information, Referral and Assistance (IRA); In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS); the Public Authority for IHSS; Supplemental Security Income Advocacy (SSI-A) Program and Adult Protective Services (APS). In addition, the AAS Branch houses the Monterey County Area Agency on Aging (AAA). The AAA coordinates and funds more than \$1.7 million of direct services each year. Its Advisory Council serves a vital role in reviewing local trends, assessing services and, most importantly, advocating for future needs.

As numbers related to the aging homeless population grow, AAS has been at the forefront of addressing issues specific to this population and has developed strong partnerships. Work has been underway since the creation and development of the HOME Collaborative (Housing Options Meaningful to Elders). A housing and homelessness summit in 2017 resulted in the creation of several workgroups. AAS partnered with the Gathering for Women to provide a series of classes on housing navigation called Navigator University (NU). NU held its second set of sessions in March 2019 and saw the class size grow from 9 participants in the original pilot, to 28 participants. Further efforts of the HOME Collaborative are related to caregiver development as well as the creation of a Home Share program in Monterey County. Efforts are also underway to perform research specific to our senior homeless population so that we can continue to provide appropriate interventions and identify service gaps.

In 2017, the SSI-A Program received approximately \$586,000 to develop and implement the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP), a three-year allocation from the California Department of Social Services. HDAP is focused on working with homeless individuals who are pursuing SSI/SSDI benefits. SSI-A is currently working in partnership with a local housing navigation provider and has successfully housed 11 individuals. Through this collaboration, and the ability to provide financial assistance such as rental deposits, household items, application fees and long-term rent, individuals who participate in this program receive support and assistance even after being housed.

APS is also involved in a unique collaboration with the Monterey Police Department (MPD) known as the Multi-Disciplinary Outreach Team (MDOT). MDOT includes members of MPD, as well as the Crisis Team, Montage Health and the YWCA Domestic Violence Program. APS and the other team members are fortunate to have office space at the police station and can respond quickly to issues that arise. MDOT focuses on reaching homeless individuals and providing additional resources. This partnership has been invaluable to the community and has inspired other police jurisdictions to develop their own MDOT.

APS, in partnership with the AAA, brings together various partners to plan and execute the Elder Justice Summit each June during World Elder Abuse Awareness Month. The most recent summit was held June 21, 2019 and focused on the prevention of social isolation. For the future, AAS will continue its vision of being dynamic, innovative leaders who will continue to ensure quality of life for the aging population and persons living with disabilities.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

No other agency was involved in the development of this report.

FINANCING:

There is no impact to the County General Fund with receipt of this report.

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