ANNUAL REPORT TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NCCOA GOALS AND OBJECTIVES WORK PLAN FOR 2019

The Napa County Commission on Aging recognizes that there is much to be accomplished moving into this next year. Over the past year, we have met with more than 50 groups and individuals representing a broad range of advocacy points of light within our community. We have held meetings in all five cities within the county, participated in dialogues dealing with the various needs to achieve a healthy, vibrant and productive community for our constituency to thrive within.

The one undeniable fact that has become clear as a result of these interactions is, **ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL.** Our county funded programs that attempt to address our homeless issues mental health needs, food safety, housing inadequacies must recognize the different needs of families, children, older adults and youth.

With the newly formed Area Agency on Aging being led by Solano and Napa County governments we now have the great opportunity to evaluate and discern what needs, resources and services are lacking within our county and identify funding mechanisms at every level of government to address these deficits.

With these facts in mind, the Commission on Aging has identified the following Goals Work Plan for the next year.

GOAL #1:

 **ABILITY TO AGE IN PLACE**

Identify means to enhance county’s programs, services and ability to provide the services needed to attain this goal.

GOAL #2:

 **HOUSING ANSWERS FOR THE MOST VULERABLE OLDER ADULTS**

Identify means to enhance county’s programs, services and ability to provide the services needed to attain this goal.

Goal #3:

 **Remove THE BARRIERS for access to mental health services**

Identify means to enhance county’s programs, services and ability to provide the services needed to attain this goal.

**Workplan to Achieve Identified Goals:**

1. Support development of permanent, supportive housing for fragile homeless older adults and for low-income older adults living on fixed income (~$1,500 @ month). In order to access shelters, homeless individuals must be able to attend to their activities of daily living, care and bathe themselves. Many do not qualify for the Medical respite such as Nightingale House, which is only temporary.
2. Develop or restructure alcohol, substance abuse, crisis mental health treatment programs targeted to special needs of older adults.
3. Offer incentives and credits to builders to construct or remodel special needs and age friendly designs and universal design features into single and multifamily housing.[[1]](#endnote-1)
4. Support efforts to expand the State’s Assisted Living Waiver Pilot Project to Napa County. In addition to providing an assisted living option for low-income individuals, the Assisted Living Waiver resource can link senior and disabled housing and residential care developments with homeless older adults who have long-term care needs.
5. Support and sustain Napa’s falls prevention program.
6. Create a site for durable medical equipment and exchange.
7. Promote understanding that this population requires that the county secure beds not buildings. Target Affordable Housing Funds goals to include leasing space for this population in care facilities. Identify methods to enhance the construction of care facilities through incentive programs at both the county and cities level. Increase understanding that housing for this population must include access to critical services.
8. Increase the awareness and ability to deal comprehensively with the specialized and unique problems related to mental health among older adults. This is lacking and results in people being turned away in crisis, highest levels of suicide in the population and this constituency not accessing treatment.
9. Work to secure funding and sustain the Linkages Case Management Program\* which fills a critical safety net recourse gap.
1. Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care, (2004) Building an Aging Agenda for the 21st Century; Master Plan on Aging; Note: Recommendations from this report are still relevant today.

<https://www.seniors.org/pdf/BuildingAgingAgendaforthe21stCentury.pdf>

\* Linkages Case Management program was defunded by state many years ago previously funded under Older Californian’s Act OCA funds.  Many counties decided to sustain and fund the program out of their County funding streams as Linkages remains “authorized” by the state (an unfunded authorization). Sonoma County sustained their Linkages program after state defunded it because it was a critical safety net program.  Linkages helped many seniors at risk for homelessness or ending up living in a SNF prematurely because they had no other option.

The NCCOA has repeatedly identified this program as an unfilled safety net resource loss to Napa. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)