

Meeting summary

Family Justice Center Initiative Update

The meeting began with introductions and a brief presentation by Caitlin about the Family Justice Center initiative, which aims to improve coordination and accessibility for survivors of interpersonal violence, including elder abuse. The group discussed progress on several objectives, including a new social media campaign on oral health care and potential funding for a fall recovery device. They also explored options for balance classes and discussed the availability of scholarships for these classes.

Senior Programs and Events Update

The group discussed various senior-focused events and programs at the London Nelson Center and Gray Bears. Rachel reported on upcoming events including a Retro Rainbow prom collaboration with the Diversity Center, a weekly Dancing for Everybody class on Wednesdays, and a Neuro Ping Pong program for people with Parkinson's. Danielle shared information about Gray Bears' upcoming singles mixer and free meditation and yoga classes.

Capitola Community Center Project Updates

The group discussed updates on the Capitola Community Center and Universally Accessible Playground Project, which is expected to open in June with a ribbon-cutting ceremony focusing on equity and inclusion. Clay highlighted the importance of transportation in reducing isolation, mentioning upcoming presentations at the Seniors Commission and the Social Service Transportation Advisory Committee. Darshana shared information about a presentation series in Scotts Valley and invited others to contribute, while Zachary noted the need to include transportation representatives in future discussions. The conversation ended by emphasizing the need for better compensation and recruitment strategies for caregivers.

Caregiver Training Location Search

The group discussed finding a new location for caregiver training sessions in Santa Cruz County, as Lois from Elder Day is retiring and may not be able to continue hosting the quarterly in-service trainings. Christina explained they need space for 20-30 people with a projection screen for a 90-minute session. Several venue options were suggested, including the Watsonville conference room, Live Oak Dining Center, libraries, RCNV on Ocean Street, and Simpkins Center, with the libraries being identified as a particularly promising option since they offer free meeting space. The discussion also touched on Cabrillo College's previous caregiving certification program, which was discontinued due to financial constraints, and Clay mentioned efforts to recreate a similar program at Gavilan College in San Benito County.

Senior Care Funding and Advocacy

The group discussed strategies for affording aging, including approaches to secure sponsorship for caregiving classes from profitable corporations like Kaiser and pharmaceutical companies. They also explored programs like PG&E's Match My Payment initiative and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for energy assistance. The conversation touched on tenant rights and the need for awareness about ICE activities in the county, with suggestions to sign up for legal observer training. Additionally, they addressed challenges related to immigration status affecting dental benefits

for seniors and the importance of critically analyzing data on homelessness among older adults. The conversation ended with a tentative schedule for the next meeting in late April.

Next steps

- Sheree: Share details about the upcoming oral health education flyers and hygiene kit distribution with Gray Bears once timing is firmed up, so Zachary can help distribute information to the group.
- Steve: Share the link and information about the fall recovery device with the group via chat or email.
- Clay: Consider adding the fall recovery device and Scotts Valley Fire District's fall prevention program to the agenda for the upcoming AAA Advisory Council, and/or coordinate a demo or outreach with Erin Collins from the fire department.
- Karen: Prepare and send a flyer with information about PEP classes, scholarships, and contact details to Zachary, who will distribute it to the group.
- Christina: Explore alternative free or low-cost meeting spaces (including libraries, RCNV, Simpkins Center) for quarterly caregiver in-service trainings in Santa Cruz County, and report back if a suitable location is found.
- Jane (and/or Cabrillo College): Consider approaching for-profit senior care companies (e.g., Kaiser, pharmaceuticals) to sponsor or fund caregiver training classes at Cabrillo or Gavilan Colleges.
- Suzanne: Find and send Zachary the name/contact for the PG&E-contracted non-profit that provides free home energy assessments and upgrades (e.g., weatherstripping, appliances) for distribution to the group.
- Zachary: Send out a roster of meeting participants and their organizations to the group, allowing individuals to opt out of sharing their contact information.
- Zachary: Send out meeting summary and materials, including the PEP class flyer and any other relevant resources, to the group.
- Steve: Share the link and details for the PG&E Match My Payment program in the chat or via email.
- Nic: Share the link for YARR (You Have Allied Rapid Response) legal observer and workplace preparation trainings in the chat.
- Zachary: Share the link for the constitutional rights red cards resource in the chat or via email.
- Steve: Coordinate with Clay and team for the Master Plan for Aging presentation and Older Americans Month proclamation at the Scotts Valley City Council meeting on May 6th.
- Zachary: Schedule and send out details for the next meeting, tentatively set for April 29th.