



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 6/9/2014)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 050516
Agenda Item #: R.5
Est. Start Time: 11:10 am
Date Submitted: 042216

Agenda Title: Proclaiming May 2016 as Older Americans Act Month in Multnomah County, Oregon

Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but sufficient to describe the action requested. Title on APR must match title on Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation.

Requested

Meeting Date: May 5, 2016 **Time Needed:** 25 minutes

Department: DCHS **Division:** ADVSD

Contact(s): Lee Girard; Rebecca Miller

Phone: (503) 988-3768 **Ext.:** **I/O Address:** Lincoln 167/1/50

Presenter

Name(s) & Title(s): Lee Girard, Community Services Manager, ADVSD

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Proclaiming May 2016 as Older Americans Act Month in Multnomah County, Oregon. Provide the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners with information about the issues facing older adults in Multnomah County, the collaborative and innovative efforts to address those issues, and the current opportunities to provide input into Multnomah County's Aging, Disability, and Veteran Services Division (ADVSD) 2017-2020 Area Agency on Aging Area Plan under the Older Americans Act.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

In 1965 the United States Congress passed the Older Americans Act, marking the first national efforts to establish a broad array of services for older adults. As part of that initiative ADVSD provides a comprehensive, coordinated service delivery system for older adults, people with disabilities, and veterans with a special emphasis on low-income, limited English-speaking, ethnic minorities, and frail persons.

Many older adults in our community experience poverty and are particularly impacted by rising housing costs. One in five of the homeless in Multnomah County are over the age of 55 and nearly six in ten are disabled. Other issues facing older adults are food insecurity and poor nutrition, social isolation and abuse or self-neglect, chronic illness and increased falls risk, and for too many older adults of color, the long-term physical, social, and

psychological impact of racism. The aging services network works collaboratively to address these complex issues, with the keen and diligent efforts of older adults themselves guiding the efforts.

We seek to highlight the foundational way that older adults themselves have and will continue to guide the work of Aging, Disability, and Veterans Services Division and the aging network it facilitates in the community, as well as highlight some of the innovative and inspiring ways the older adults are creating new paths forward.

The Board will hear from volunteers with Elders in Action, involved in programs from personal advocacy, to shared housing development, to policy development. They'll also hear from a participant of a recent intergenerational event aimed at reducing social isolation and increasing the technology savvy of Elders called Cyber Seniors.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

None.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

This proclamation highlights the continuing efforts by Multnomah County and its many partners to celebrate the perennial contributions of Elders in our community and promote an age-friendly community. The intent is to raise awareness about issues they face, and highlight the ways they are advocating for themselves, their peers, and their community.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

We worked with Board staff and two community based organizations to develop the proclamation and intend to have at least one Elder share their advocacy and involvement in shaping the aging network. We have collaborated with the City of Portland to make a similar proclamation in May.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department**

Director: Peggy Brey /s/

Date: April 21, 2015

Note: Please submit electronically. Insert names of your approvers followed by /s/ - we no longer use actual signatures. Please insert date approved.