



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Health Services Agency

DATE: May 6, 2002

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 14, 2002

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson *RJG*
SUBJECT: Women's Health Month

Recommendation

Adopt a proclamation declaring the month of May as Women's Health Month and recognize the County's contributions to the health and wellness of women in San Mateo County.

Background

The San Mateo County Commission on the Status of Women, founded in 1982, provides leadership in developing policies, programs and legislation that address the needs of women, girls and families in San Mateo County. Helping to ensure the health and wellness of women and girls is one of the Commission's priorities. The Commission continuously partners with the Health Services Agency to recognize health issues unique to women and differences in health and health care experiences across cultures and age groups. In addition, the Health Services Agency continues to sponsor the San Mateo County Women's Health Initiative, which works to improve the health, mental health and related services and activities provided by the Health Services Agency to women and adolescent girls.

On March 19, 2002 the California Legislature adopted Resolution No. 174 proclaiming the month of May as Women's Health Month. In recognition of this action, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Health Services Agency recommend that your Board proclaim the month of May Women's Health Month in San Mateo County.

Discussion

Throughout the month of May, activities related to health issues of women and girls will be provided throughout the County. Examples of the types of services to be provided include the following:

- Aging and Adult Services will be co-sponsoring the “Relatives as Parents” conference on May 11th, which will feature free special health screenings such as mammography, physical fitness, and blood, blood cholesterol and glucose level tests. This conference is a collaborative effort of Health Services, Human Services, Mills-Peninsula, African American Community Health Advisory Committee, Fatherhood Collaborative and Interfaith Health Ministries.
- In collaboration with the Mills-Peninsula Senior Focus Wellness Center, Aging and Adult Services will be conducting five health screenings in communities with greater economic need.
- Aging and Adult Services will also be conducting three focus groups at senior centers and community agencies with an emphasis on promoting and increasing physical activity for women and men.
- In response to a concern regarding the increasing number of requests for family planning services among the adolescent population on the Coast, the Public Health Mobile Clinic will be teaming with the science teachers at Cunha Middle School to provide health promotion and sexually transmitted disease and pregnancy prevention classes for all students during the month of May. Services for youth, especially young women, are sparse on the Coast. As part of the education sessions, the Mobile Clinics will be on campus one day for students to tour and meet the staff. The hope is that these young women, and men, will take advantage of the services provided as a means of support for making wiser decisions about their health.
- The Health Services Agency will be conducting training on “Improving our Response to Family Violence” as part of the County’s Family Violence Prevention Strategic Planning Project.
- On May 29th, the staff of the Keller Center for Family Violence Intervention will staff an informational table outside of the San Mateo County Health Center Cafeteria to distribute information regarding sexual assault and domestic violence, a leading cause of injury to adult women.

Vision Alignment

The proclamation declaring May as Women’s Health Month keeps the commitment of Ensuring Basic Health and Safety for All and goal number 8: Help vulnerable people—the aged, disabled, mentally ill, at-risk youth and others—achieve a better quality of life. The proclamation contributes to this commitment and goal by recognizing the importance of health and wellness for women and identifying specific activities provided throughout the County regarding women’s health in the month of May.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this proclamation.