

## RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**REPORT TITLE:** "Marin Is Aging: Are We Ready?"  
**REPORT DATE:** April 20, 2018  
**RESPONSE BY:** County of Marin Board of Supervisors

### GRAND JURY FINDINGS

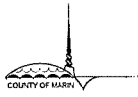
- We agree with the findings numbered: **F1, F2 and F3**
- We disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: **F4 and F5**

### GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered **R1 and R4** have been implemented.
- Recommendation numbered **R3** will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Supervisors



County of Marin Response to Grand Jury Report Findings and Recommendations  
"Marin Is Aging: Are We Ready?"  
April 20, 2018

## **RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINDINGS**

### **F1. Marin County is very progressive in providing information and support for elders.**

**Response:** Agree

Marin County is fortunate to have dedicated staff, engaged residents and volunteers, and collaborative community-based partnerships committed to providing information and assistance to the public on the broad range of social services and related resources available to Marin County residents.

### **F2. Marin County and many of its cities are actively working to make Marin a more age-friendly county.**

**Response:** Agree

To date, for example, the cities and towns of Sausalito, Corte Madera, Fairfax, Novato, Mill Valley and San Rafael have been accepted formally into the World Health Organization and AARP's global network of age-friendly, livable communities. In addition, the cities and towns of Tiburon, Belvedere, Ross and San Anselmo are pursuing application to this network, as is the County of Marin and its unincorporated areas.

### **F3. Marin County's first responders are exceptionally well-trained in providing help to elders.**

**Response:** Agree

The 911 First Responder program (reference *Grand Jury Report - The 911 First Responder Referral Program: More Than a Band-Aid® for Seniors, June 2016*) has been effective in training and collaborating with fire, paramedic and law enforcement first-responders to connect socially-isolated residents with needed community-based services and supports.

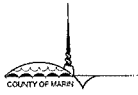
### **F4. Marin County does not have adequate shelter facilities for seniors in crisis.**

**Response:** Partially disagree

For seniors facing crisis situations of domestic violence, there is an existing local resource (Center for Domestic Peace) to provide emergency shelter and services for men and women of all ages. This shelter has recently expanded their capacity, is fully accessible, and can accommodate those with ambulation, sight and hearing issues, as well as other special needs. For other urgent situations, Adult Protective Services is available to respond in-person 24-hours per day to develop a plan of action for seniors who may need to immediately leave their residence.

### **F5. Many Marin County seniors are not technologically savvy, and therefore may not have their phones properly registered for emergency services.**

**Response:** Partially disagree



County of Marin Response to Grand Jury Report Findings and Recommendations  
"Marin Is Aging: Are We Ready?"  
April 20, 2018

According to the Pew Research Center, in 2017, four-in-ten U.S. adults 65+ owned smartphones, more than double the share that did so in 2013.

(<http://www.pewinternet.org/2017/05/17/technology-use-among-seniors/>)

## RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Marin County Civil Grand Jury recommends the following:

**R1. The Board of Supervisors should request that HHS include information about how to register cell phones and Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phones for emergency alerts as part of community outreach.**

This recommendation has been implemented.

The County of Marin has implemented a variety of public emergency alert and warning tools including AlertMarin. AlertMarin, operated by Marin Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES), provides residents with a broad array of text-based and voice-alerting paths (including cell phones, Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phones, TTY and a smartphone application). OES works with community partners to encourage residents to register with AlertMarin. HHS will continue its partnership with OES to promote AlertMarin as an important tool to build older adults' resilience.

**R3. Marin County should develop a plan for a designated elder shelter.**

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable.

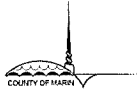
Evidence does not exist to warrant building a physical shelter or financing space at a residential care facility on a permanently-available basis. There have been no cases of domestic or family violence brought to Adult Protective Services (APS) in the past three years wherein an older adult needed immediate out-of-home placement. Should an older adult experience domestic violence and wish to leave his or her residence, a current local resource exists to provide shelter and services.

There has been only one case known to APS in the past three years of an older adult experiencing a non-domestic violence crisis wherein the individual's ability to stay in his/her residence was at immediate risk. In this case, overnight care was quickly found and the situation stabilized with the individual able to stay safely at home.

**R4. The Board of Supervisors should actively lobby State Legislators to allow MHSA funds to be used to help elders with mental illness and co-occurring dementia or Alzheimer's disease.**

This recommendation has been implemented.

MHSA funds are currently being used to support adults and older adults with severe mental illness and co-occurring dementia when the diagnosis of mental illness is evaluated to be primary and when the cognitive level of functioning does not render treatment ineffective.



County of Marin Response to Grand Jury Report Findings and Recommendations  
"Marin Is Aging: Are We Ready?"  
April 20, 2018

Consistent with the County of Marin 2018 Federal and State Legislative Programs and Legislative Police Guidelines (Section D), the Board of Supervisors will continue to work with its Department of Health and Human Services and related Commission on Aging, Mental Health Board and Mental Health Stakeholder Advisory Committee on legislative efforts which support older adult mental health and cognitive functioning.



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Prevention ★ Prosecution ★ Protection

Edward S. Berberian  
District Attorney

Rosemary Slote  
CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY

June 19, 2018

Dori K. Ahana  
CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY

Marin County Civil Grand Jury  
Ron Brown, Foreperson  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 275  
San Rafael, CA 94903

Robert J. French  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

Peggy M. Toth  
CHIEF, FINANCE  
AND ADMINISTRATION

Re: Response by District Attorney Edward S. Berberian to the Civil Grand Jury  
Report Entitled, "Marin is Aging"

Dear Mr. Brown:

**Recommendation 2: The District Attorney should include registration of VOIP  
and cell phones in the DA's outreach program.**

This recommendation will be implemented in our outreach programs to seniors. In addition, we have incorporated in a segment of our presentations to seniors an explanation on how to order cell phones from the various cell phone service providers which alert them to the pitfalls of various sale promotions. The goal is to reduce the complexity and often times confusion that can be present when a provider is presenting a particular enrollment plan.

Very truly yours,

Edward S. Berberian  
District Attorney

ESB/hcp