



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: December 2, 2014

01

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: THE ALZHEIMER'S PROJECT: A CALL TO ARMS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Overview

Now the third leading cause of death in San Diego County, Alzheimer's disease is a growing public health epidemic that demands a regional response. More than 60,000 local people have the fatal disease or a related form of dementia. That number is expected to increase to nearly 100,000 by 2030. Many caregivers are under so much stress that they struggle to manage their own physical and mental health, at an estimated local cost of \$75 million a year. The annual nationwide cost of caring for people with Alzheimer's exceeds \$200 billion and it's estimated that over the next 40 years that figure will grow to \$20 trillion.

In her 2014 State of the County speech, Chairwoman Dianne Jacob called for the creation of The Alzheimer's Project, an unprecedented initiative to develop a regional roadmap to address the disease. The Board of Supervisors approved the idea on May 6, 2014 on the recommendation of Chairwoman Jacob and Supervisor Dave Roberts. The Project brought together for the first time San Diego's top researchers, elected officials, care experts and others to examine ways to accelerate the search for a cure, improve clinical care, expand caregiver support and boost public awareness and education. Numerous recommendations were developed on each front, including:

- Launching a multimillion-dollar, San Diego-based fund drive called Part the Clouds to spur research innovation and drug discovery.
- Developing for the first time countywide standards for the screening, diagnosis and disease management of Alzheimer's and other dementia.
- Increasing awareness of and recruiting volunteers for clinical trials and exploring the development of a regional registry that would connect patients and physicians with researchers for trials.
- Boosting training for those who work with Alzheimer's patients and expanding services, respite care, and support for families.
- Enhancing the Sheriff Department's Take Me Home program and increasing access to use of GPS to curb wandering and use of the Silver Alert when appropriate.

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With this action, the County, as the region’s chief public health agency, will receive The Alzheimer’s Project report and adopt the recommendations, receive a presentation from The Alzheimer’s Project leadership and direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work with the Care, Cure, Clinical, and Public Awareness and Education roundtables to develop an implementation plan for the report recommendations and report back to the board in 90 days.

Recommendation(s)

SUPERVISOR DIANNE JACOB AND SUPERVISOR DAVE ROBERTS

1. Receive The Alzheimer’s Project report and organizational chart and receive a presentation from The Alzheimer’s Project steering committee and the Care, Cure, Clinical, and Public Awareness and Education roundtable chairpersons.
2. Adopt the recommendations presented in the report.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to work with the Care, Cure, Clinical, and Public Awareness and Education roundtables to develop an implementation plan for the report recommendations and report back to the board in 90 days.
4. Direct the CAO to pursue any additional funding opportunities to support the recommendations in this regional strategic plan to improve Alzheimer’s caregiver resources and respite care, research funding, and support Alzheimer’s disease education and public awareness.

Fiscal Impact

N/A

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

Background

Alzheimer’s disease is reaching epidemic proportions and this fatal illness is taking an escalating toll on San Diego County households and the region’s healthcare system. More than 60,000 local residents are living with the disease and that figure is expected to grow to nearly 100,000 by 2030 as the elderly population surges. The death rate from Alzheimer’s in the County is among the highest in California and it has climbed from the region’s fifth leading cause of death to the third. Nationally, 500,000 people die each year from the disease. The impact on women is particularly staggering. While one in 11 men over the age of 65 has Alzheimer’s, the number is one in six for women. Women in their 60s are about twice as likely to develop Alzheimer’s as they are breast cancer.

The disease takes a terrible toll on families. Eighty percent of Alzheimer’s patients are cared for at home by over 150,000 family members in the region. In San Diego County in 2013, these caregivers provided an estimated 156 million hours of unpaid care, valued at nearly \$2 billion.

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Many caregivers are under so much stress that they struggle to manage their own physical and mental health, at an estimated local cost of \$75 million a year.

The federal government will spend \$562 million this year on funding for Alzheimer's research, education, outreach and caregiver support. Unfortunately, this record number is still dwarfed by the annual nationwide cost of caring for people with Alzheimer's, which exceeds \$200 billion. It's estimated that over the next 40 years that figure will grow to \$20 trillion. The \$562 million on Alzheimer's research is one fourth of what we'll spend this year studying heart disease. We'll spend ten times that amount on cancer research. While nationally the number of Alzheimer's deaths from 2000 to 2010 increased 68%, deaths from several other major diseases saw significant decreases, including heart disease, prostate cancer, stroke and HIV/AIDS. To address this concern, the Board of Supervisors sent a letter supporting the federal Alzheimer's Accountability Act to San Diego County's federal legislative representatives and the President. The County's Legislative Program was amended to include support for any legislation that increases funding for Alzheimer's research and provides additional resources to caregivers, family members and those afflicted with the disease.

The Alzheimer's Project

The board action on May 6, 2014 launched The Alzheimer's Project and the Cure, Care, Clinical, and Public Awareness and Education roundtables, which were charged with developing a countywide Alzheimer's Plan to address this epidemic. Key partners in the initiative are Chairwoman Dianne Jacob and Supervisor Dave Roberts, Co-Chairpersons for The Alzheimer's Project Steering committee, San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, San Diego County Sheriff William Gore, Darlene Shiley, President of the Shiley Foundation, Mary Ball, President and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association for San Diego and Imperial Counties, Dr. Michael Lobatz with Scripps Health, and Nick Macchione Director of the County's Health and Human Services Agency, along with physicians, bio-tech experts, world-class researchers, and community-based organizations. Numerous recommendations were developed on each front, including:

- Launching a multimillion-dollar, San Diego-based fund drive called Part the Clouds to spur research innovation and drug discovery.
- Developing for the first time countywide standards for the screening, diagnosis and disease management of Alzheimer's and other dementia.
- Increasing awareness of and recruiting volunteers for clinical trials and exploring the development of a regional registry that would connect patients and physicians with researchers for trials.
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Finding a Cure

The Cure roundtable, co-chaired by Chairwoman Dianne Jacob and Supervisor Dave Roberts, brought together Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Darlene Shiley, President of the Shiley Foundation, Mary Ball, President and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association for San Diego and Imperial Counties, Dr. Michael Lobatz with Scripps Health, and Nick Macchione, Director of the County's Health and Human Services Agency, and San Diego's leading researchers – Dr. William Mobley, Dr. Paul Aisen, and Dr. Michael Raffi with UCSD; Dr. Michael Jackson, Dr. Stuart Lipton, and Dr. Thomas Chung with Sanford-Burnham; Dr. Jerold Chun and Dr. Kristin Baldwin with the Scripps Research Institute; and Dr. Martin Hetzer with the Salk Institute, Joe Panetta with Biocom, and James Beaubeaux with the San Diego County Medical Society to collaborate on ways to enhance the awareness, partnerships and funding for research. The group discussed obstacles, progress and areas for legislative action. These cure leaders explored how to: link researchers with the public and physicians to increase awareness of and participation in clinical trials; encourage the quickest possible sharing of research data to accelerate innovation and drug discovery; and to leverage funds to drive local research efforts.

Providing Better Care

The Alzheimer's Project Care Roundtable, chaired by Pam Smith, a community leader, brought together care leaders -- including the Alzheimer's Association, hospital administrators, experts in dementia care, medical providers, residential care and home care providers, and community-based organizations -- to improve the local network of services available to those with the disease and their caregivers. These leaders inventoried resources currently available and made recommendations to fill gaps, such as expanding respite care, increasing geriatric psychiatric beds, promoting physician education and increasing service coverage and reimbursement. They also recommend working with families and law enforcement to decrease incidents of wandering by those with dementia, a growing concern highlighted by several recent local incidents.

Standards of Diagnosis and Care

The Clinical group, co-chaired by Dr. Michael Lobatz with Scripps Health and Dr. Nick Yphantides with the County's Health and Human Services Agency, is comprised of neurologists from all health systems and private practice physicians. They met to discuss the development of the region's first-ever standards for the diagnosis and care of Alzheimer's. The group continues the anticipated year-long process to explore how to develop consensus on screening, standards of practice and disease management, encourage the local health systems and private physicians to adopt these standards, educate primary care physicians region-wide on when to refer patients to neurologists, and connect patients with clinical research trials and community resources. Over the course of the next year, this group will engage psychiatrists, gerontologists, primary care physicians, caregivers and the community to gather stakeholder feedback.

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Public Awareness and Education

The Project’s Public Awareness and Education group, chaired by Mary Ball, President and CEO of the Alzheimer’s Association for San Diego and Imperial Counties, worked to develop a public awareness campaign focusing on the 10 signs and early diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease. It explored the possibility of presentations at county libraries and other county facilities and developed a plan to provide Alzheimer’s and related dementia training to public safety and social service personnel. The group also emphasized the need for a media campaign to increase the public’s ability to recognize and report elder and dependent adult abuse.

With this action, the County, as the region’s chief public health agency, will receive The Alzheimer’s Project report and adopt the recommendations, receive a presentation from The Alzheimer’s Project leadership and direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to work with the Care, Cure, Clinical, and Public Awareness and Education roundtables to develop an implementation plan for the report recommendations and report back to the board in 90 days. We urge your support.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB
Supervisor, Second District

DAVE ROBERTS
Supervisor, Third District

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment A: Alzheimer’s Project Organizational Chart

Attachment B: Alzheimer’s Project Report

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Districts 2 and 3

OTHER CONCURRENCES(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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