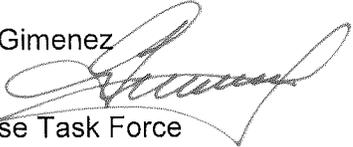


Memorandum



Date: April 16, 2013
To: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners
From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 
Subject: Elder Abuse Task Force

On October 2, 2012 the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopted Resolution No. R-816-12 directing the Administration to review the February 2006 recommendations of the Elder Abuse Task Force and to provide a report regarding:

- What has been implemented from those recommendations within Miami-Dade County;
- What portion of the recommendations have been implemented by Florida legislature and other Florida administrative departments; and
- Provide additional recommendations to the Board for accomplishing the mission of the Elder Abuse Task Force.

HISTORY

On December 4, 2003, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) passed Resolution No. 1311-03, directing the County Manager to establish an Elder Abuse Task Force. The Elder Abuse Task Force was charged with submitting recommendations on the detection and prevention of elder abuse in assisted living facilities (ALFs), nursing homes, convalescent homes, or other facilities that house or care for the elderly in Miami-Dade County.

Representatives from the state, local governing bodies, and the private sector were invited to participate as Elder Abuse Task Force members. The initial meeting took place on March 25, 2004; the Task Force met a total of ten (10) times and concluded on July 15, 2005. The recommendations and actions below are a result of the Task Force meetings.

Elder Abuse Task Force Recommendations	Actions
1. Training on elder issues be provided to the County's new "311" operations.	The County's "311" operators currently receive training on elder issues, however it is not mandatory training.
2. Initiate a coordinated public information campaign.	The Department of Children and Families (DCF) conduct public information campaigns; no evidence of on-going coordinated efforts among public and private sectors exists.
3. The use of cameras (Granny Cams) as a method of recording/documenting abuse and neglect in identified facilities.	State of Florida Senate Bill 2050: Assisted Living Facilities introduced on 1/20/2012, responded to this recommendation but it never made it out of the Health Regulation Committee 3/9/2012.
4. Initiate a requirement that all ALFs have a formalized transfer form of vital medical information that is available 24 hours a day to emergency responders.	No evidence has been found regarding a legislative requirement directing all ALFs to have a formalized transfer form of vital medical information made available 24 hours a day to emergency responders.

<p>5. Continued funding for the Miami-Dade County Guardianship Program and the creation of the statewide database to track vendors, index payments, monitor performance, and analyze guardians' expenditures.</p>	<p>The Miami-Dade County Guardianship Program receives funding from Miami-Dade County. However, no evidence was found to confirm that the funding is used for the creation of a statewide database to track vendors, index payments, monitor performance, and analyze guardians' expenditures.</p>
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<p>Elder Abuse Tack Force Recommendations</p>	<p>Actions</p>
<p>1. Allow Miami-Dade College to become an ALF testing facility.</p>	<p>Miami-Dade College Kendall South Campus is the only accredited testing site in Miami-Dade County that offers the ALF examination.</p>
<p>2. Administration of the ALF examination in a more accessible format and alternative language.</p>	<p>The exams are currently administered in English and Spanish, no Creole or American Sign language is available.</p>
<p>3. Miami-Dade County further subsidizes training for ALF providers based on Optional State Supplementation (OSS) occupancy rates.</p>	<p>No evidence was found regarding the implementation of Miami-Dade County further subsidizing training for ALF providers based on Optional State Supplementation (OSS) occupancy rates.</p>
<p>4. Each police department within Miami-Dade County should designate at least one officer to serve as a liaison to the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families' Adult Protective Services Program.</p>	<p>Miami-Dade County Police Department has a designated officer who serves as a liaison to the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families' Adult Protective Services Program.</p>
<p>5. Mandatory training for designated police liaison officers.</p>	<p>Miami-Dade Police provides on-going mandatory training for the police liaison and all other officers.</p>
<p>6. Development of an organized body to continue investigating ways of preventing elder abuse.</p>	<p>No information was found regarding the development of an organized body to continue investigating ways of preventing elder abuse.</p>

SUBSEQUENT BCC ACTIVITY

On June 6, 2006, the Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution No.733-06, directing the County Manager to study the feasibility of implementing the recommendations of the Elder Abuse Task Force. On October 7, 2008, the Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution No.1072-08, urging the Florida Legislature, the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration and the Florida Department of Elder Affairs to implement the recommendations of the Miami-Dade Elder Abuse Task Force, including expressly permitting the use of "granny cameras" in nursing homes to deter elder abuse and neglect; requiring assisted living facilities to have vital medical information available on standardized forms 24 hours a day; and changing administrative procedures to provide certification examinations for assisted living facilities in Creole, in addition to English and Spanish.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue to advocate for increased awareness of elder abuse issues.
2. Increase victim assistance, "safe havens," and support for at-risk elders.
3. Increase prosecution regarding perpetrators of crimes involving abuse against the elderly. Specific data regarding such crimes are not readily available, since law enforcement usually identifies them as assault, robbery, etc. rather than elder abuse crime.
4. Require mandatory training for all elder care workers to combat elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.
5. Require mandatory criminal background checks for elder care workers to be performed by potential employers.

Should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this report, please contact Lucia Davis-Raiford at 786-469-4616.

c: Robert A. Cuevas, Jr., County Attorney
Russell Benford, Deputy Mayor
Lucia Davis-Raiford, Director, Community Action and Human Services Department
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor