



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Yolo County Recognized by State Association for Triad Task Force

(Woodland, CA) – The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) recently announced that one of Yolo County’s outstanding programs has been selected to receive a Merit Award in this year’s CSAC Challenge Award program. Yolo County’s entry for its Triad Task Force – the action arm of the Yolo County Commission on Aging and Adult Services – was one of 25 recipients statewide, out of 260 entries, to receive such recognition. The CSAC Challenge Award program recognizes demonstrated leadership, innovation, collaboration, creativity, resourcefulness and effectiveness, as well as the potential for successful elements of a program to be used as a model for other counties.

“Yolo County is proud of our “activist” Triad Task Force, ably chaired by local attorney Elaine Roberts Musser,” said Board Chair Mariko Yamada. “With the recent Governor’s veto of \$12 million in Adult Protective Services augmentation funds, local voluntary efforts such as Triad will become even more critical to the protection and advocacy of vulnerable Yolo County seniors and disabled adults.”

Triad formed in Yolo County in 2005 when Musser approached the Yolo County Commission on Aging and Adult Services with the national Triad model, an alliance among the AARP, the National Sheriff’s Association, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Triads are comprised of both public and private sector members, and address a variety of unmet needs for older adults. The Triad Task Force mission is “to improve the quality of life for seniors and disabled adults in Yolo County by involving them in efforts to provide: education and shared information, enhanced coordination among local agencies and emergency service providers, and legislative advocacy.”

Since 2005, Triad has accomplished the following:

- Established a list serve of elder advocates and “non-traditional partners” enabling swift communication countywide.
- Secured a corporate donation of five digital cameras from Long’s Drugs for Yolo Adult Day Health Center’s “Elder ID” program, providing photo identification and tracking information for local law enforcement on seniors who may be at-risk of wandering.
- Assisted a low-income senior and veteran discovered living in unsafe and unsanitary conditions in a remote county area, ultimately providing more than \$35,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to achieve an “extreme makeover” involving clean-up, repairs to the dwelling unit, and multiple replacements of home appliances.
- Created “Building Bridges,” a pro bono legal advocacy and assistance service focusing on fiduciary elder abuse prevention and prosecution that has already handled twenty cases.

- Developed Yolo Home Safety Services Program by partnering with Rebuilding Together, a national non-profit organization providing free or reduced-cost home modification services for seniors and disabled adults to be able to age-in-place safely and in their own homes. .

Triad's success is realized through the collaborative efforts of multiple county departments and divisions, including County Code Enforcement, Planning and Public Works, the Sheriff-Coroner, Employment and Social Services, Veteran Services, the Public Guardian, Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health, the District Attorney, and the office of Yolo County Supervisor Mariko Yamada. These county departments actively engage with many outside agencies serving the elderly and disabled, including the Davis Senior Center, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, California Highway Patrol, Elderly Nutrition Program, Linkages, Davis Police Department, West Sacramento Police Department, AARP, Community Mediation Service, Area 4 Agency on Aging, Adult Day Health, Senior Legal Hotline, Home Instead, Yolo Hospice, the Yolo Community Fund, UC Davis, American Medical Response, and local municipal and rural fire departments and clergy.

All programs implemented by the Triad Task Force are financed through individual fundraising efforts on behalf of a specific project. Thus far, donations have come from private individuals, foundations or businesses, and community development block grants.

“We are thrilled to see the Triad Task Force acknowledged for its commitment to improving the quality of life for seniors and disabled adults in Yolo County,” said Yolo County DESS Director, Pamela Miller. “We are grateful for their efforts in a time of shrinking local budgets and limited resources to address the needs of our aging population.”

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