

# County Of Sonoma Agenda Item Summary Report

**Clerk of the Board Use Only**  
**Meeting Date**                      **Held Until**  
 /   /    /   /  
**Agenda Item No:**                      **Agenda Item No:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_                                      \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** Health Services

**4/5 Vote Not Required**

**Contact:**  
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**Board Date:**  
11/17/2009

**Deadline for Board Action:**  
11/17/2009

**AGENDA SHORT TITLE:** World AIDS Day.

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:**

Resolution declaring December 1, 2009 as World AIDS Day in Sonoma County.

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT - None.**

**Explanation (if required):** None.

**Prior Board Action:** 11/18/08 – Resolution declaring World AIDS Day.

**Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:** Lost opportunity to increase awareness and educate the community about HIV/AIDS.

## **Background:**

### **World AIDS Day Background**

In 1988, the World Health Organization established World AIDS Day to focus attention on the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and provide an opportunity for government, local agencies, community groups, associations, and individuals to demonstrate the importance of the fight against HIV/AIDS. Annually on December 1, communities throughout the world honor the work of those who strive to increase HIV/AIDS awareness, reduce risk for HIV transmission, improve access to treatment and care, and ultimately reduce fear and stigma by providing accurate information.

For 2009, the World AIDS Campaign chose Universal Access and Human Rights as the global World AIDS Day theme after close consultation with representatives of various constituencies, communications and media representatives of partner organizations, and friends of the World AIDS Campaign. The goal of the theme is to highlight universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support as a human rights imperative. The Campaign adopted a series of "I AM" slogans, such as: "I am not the virus", "I am safe", "I am accepted", "I am well".

### **HIV/AIDS Statistics**

#### ***Global***

- In the world, 8 persons are infected with HIV every minute. One of these is a child under 15.
- In the world, 5 persons die from HIV or AIDS every minute.
- It is estimated that there are 15.2 million AIDS orphans worldwide.
- Young persons (age 15-24) accounted for 40 percent of new adult infections in 2006.
- Regions with increasing incidence of HIV are East Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

#### ***Sub-Saharan Africa***

- In Sub-Saharan Africa, 5 people are infected with HIV every minute, and 4 people die of the disease.
- In this region, women are more often infected with HIV compared to men, and bear the burden of caring for those also infected.
- The need for Highly Active Antiretroviral Treatment (HAART), or "the cocktail" far exceeds availability, with only 23 percent of persons needing HAART receiving it.

#### ***United States***

- In the US, someone is newly infected with HIV every 9.5 minutes. Every 33 minutes, someone dies from HIV or AIDS.
- Women accounted for 26% of new diagnoses in 2006.
- African Americans accounted for 49% of new diagnoses.

#### ***Sonoma County***

As of September 3, 2009, there are at least 1,474 persons known to be living with HIV or AIDS who were diagnosed in Sonoma County (889 AIDS; 585 HIV). This number does not reflect the total number of individuals in Sonoma County in need of service and care. Similar to the state and national epidemics, the demographics of persons in Sonoma County newly affected by HIV and AIDS continue to change.

- The majority of persons currently living with HIV or AIDS are white males.
- Compared to all AIDS cases ever reported in Sonoma County, those currently living with HIV or AIDS include a higher proportion of persons reporting heterosexual exposure, particularly among females.
- While the rate of new diagnoses on HIV or AIDS infections has declined among males, the rate has remained stable for women.
- In 2007, Sonoma County had the seventh highest prevalence of persons living with AIDS of all 58 California counties.

The Sonoma County World AIDS Day Committee and a coalition of HIV prevention agencies are planning a number of events during the days leading up to and after World AIDS Day to increase awareness and educate the community about HIV and AIDS. Events designed to encourage Sonoma County residents to get involved both locally and globally, include:

- Saturday, November 28th– AIDS Memorial Quilt Panels Display at Guerneville Veterans Hall. Food for Thought, an organization that provides nutritional support to people living with HIV/AIDS disease, will have a food drive at area markets.
- Tuesday, December 1st – Drumming Circle and Candlelight Vigil at the Sonoma Nesting Co. and Guerneville Historic Footbridge.
- Tuesday, December 1st – Fundraiser at the Rainbow Cattle Co. in Guerneville benefiting the Food for Thought/AIDS Nutrient Bank.
- Thursday, December 3rd – Presentation at Sonoma State University by Dr. Marshall Kubota, and personal stories of persons living with AIDS. Confidential HIV testing will be available.
- Thursday, December 3rd – Dining Out for Life ([www.diningoutforlife.com](http://www.diningoutforlife.com)) – Participating restaurants will donate a percentage of receipts to Food for Thought.

For World AIDS Day 2009, the Sonoma County World AIDS Day Committee adopts the slogan, “I am not the virus”. Sonoma County’s local World AIDS Day theme – “Leadership” – sends the message that if people take personal responsibility by being informed about how to protect themselves and others, they will improve their quality of life and help to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Please support the Committee on World AIDS Day, and the coalition of agencies and individuals working together, by proclaiming December 1, 2009 as World AIDS Day in Sonoma County.

**Attachments:** Resolution declaring December 1, 2009 as World AIDS Day.

**On File With Clerk:** None.

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**Board Action (If other than “Requested”)**

**Vote:**