



## Council on Aging Press Release

With the increasing concerns about COVID-19 (Coronavirus), and the high risk population that Council on Aging serves, please know that we are doing our best to maintain a safe environment for all of our clients and staff. All of Council on Aging's clients are in the high risk group (elderly, immunocompromised, and those with underlying medical conditions), so we ask for your help and support as we navigate this situation. We would like to assure clients that during these uncertain times, we are committed to being available to serve our seniors. Additionally we are working diligently to mitigate any possibility of introducing COVID-19 to isolated seniors.

Although our staff is here, our offices at 30 Kawana Springs Rd. are closed to the public for the foreseeable future. We are available by phone at 707-525-0143. Those who need to access our programs may do so as follows:

Information & Referral – Call 525-0143

Case Management – Available by phone

Mental Health Services – Available by phone

Elder Advocacy at the Family Justice Center – Available by phone

Adult Day Programs – Closed

Senior Care Coordination – Available but home visits limited to emergencies

Legal, Estate Planning – Available through telephone appointments

Money Management – Not taking new clients at this time

Trust Management – Serving existing clients. New appointments – 8 weeks out

Conservatorship- Serving existing clients

Council on Aging's monthly Open Houses and Speaker Series - Suspended until further notice.

Of greatest concern is to continue providing access to food to those who depend on receiving meals at dining sites or through home delivery. Although conditions continue to change, this is the current overview of meal service –



#### Dining Sites:

- Rohnert Park | Sebastopol, Healdsburg, Cloverdale - Sites closed effective 3/17/20 and diners placed on waitlist for Meals on Wheels
- Silvercrest | Bethlehem Towers | Open - takeout meals mandatory
- West County | Cold lunch takeout available 3/18/20, then moving to frozen packs to go

#### Meals on Wheels Home Delivery

There is currently no change to the program with daily deliveries Monday through Friday and frozen meals available for the weekends. As many of our volunteer drivers are 65 or over, we are experiencing a drop in available volunteers as they self-isolate. This trend is expected to continue and with the majority of 60+ delivery routes covered by volunteer drivers, we may be forced to reduce the number of meal deliveries and provide frozen and shelf stable pack-ups. In anticipation of that scenario, we have ordered shelf stable reserves and are producing excess meals to freeze and store.

Council on Aging has been serving our mission to enhance the quality of life for our aging community by providing services that promote well-being and maintain independence since 1966, and our commitment in the face of natural disasters, and now a pandemic, is unwavering.

Seniors are one of the most vulnerable populations in our county. We need your donations to sustain our critical programs, and continue the mission we have served for over 50 years. I sincerely thank you for your ongoing concerns, commitment, and support. We are counting on you to help us get through this crisis together. We simply cannot do it without you.

In the meantime, please be safe and kind. And, as always, we will see you on the other side of the crisis.

Warmly,

Marrienne McBride

President and CEO

Council on Aging