

## **Aging and Disability Resource Connection**

During the November 2013 and again during the January 2014 meetings of the Placer County Older Adult Advisory Commission (OAAC) a new model for enhancing collaboration of agencies serving older adults and persons with disabilities was discussed. This model is known by the name **Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)**.

The primary purpose of an ADRC is to provide older adults and persons with disabilities and their families an easily accessible, consistent, adequate and customer friendly system of information, assistance, supports and services.

In spite of laudable efforts at cooperation and collaboration between agencies serving older adults and persons with disabilities, the current system of information, assistance, supports and services has remained fragmented and, for older adults and persons with disabilities, a sometimes perplexing and difficult system to navigate.

Other relatively recent changes may also support the need to redefine the systems serving these populations. These include: 1) a significant increases in both the population of older adults and persons with disabilities; with a corresponding and strong emphasis toward aging in place and having the right to make their own choices concerning where they live and how and where they receive assistance; and, 2) increasing consistency of older adults and persons with disabilities desired life styles, preferences and needs; and, 3) significant reductions in funding for older adult and disability services, with a corresponding push toward reducing duplication in the service delivery system.

An ADRC would bring existing resources together to provide objective information about the full range of options that are available to older adults and persons with disabilities; and to empower them in making informed decisions about how to define and meet their individual needs and goals.

The potential purpose and scope of an ADRC would include: serving as a coordinated resource for older adult and disability related information, assistance, supports and services for people of all ages, disabilities, and income levels; and, providing a “no wrong door” approach, making access to information, supports and services as seamless and easy as possible for older adults, persons with disabilities, and their families.

Services provided within the ADRC collaborative would include: enhanced information, referral and assistance services; in-depth counseling and assistance in developing a plan, and facilitation of a plan, for living independently; short-term crisis and service coordination services; and transition services from either nursing facilities or acute (hospital) care to home.

Of course, changing the current system of services and supports for older adults and persons with disabilities is not a simple matter. However, the Placer County Older Adult Advisory Commission (OAAC) will continue to discuss (and make recommendations) regarding the ADRC model and other ways the current system might be improved. The OAAC will also encourage, and where possible, facilitate other organizations in discussions of how we might best provide supports and services to the fastest growing segment of Placer County’s population.

*The views expressed here are those of Mr. Eldon Luce and do not necessarily represent those of the Commission or individual members.*