

CCoA
California Commission on Aging

AGEWATCH

Adult Day Health Care Settlement Receives Final Approval

A settlement in the suit to protect Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) won final approval in January in U.S. District Court. The settlement, originally reached in November 2011, calls for creation of the “Community-Based Adult Services” Program, or CBAS, as a Medi-Cal managed care benefit to replace the current program. Serving approximately 35,000 frail elderly and persons with disabilities statewide, the ADHC Medi-Cal benefit will be eliminated on March 31, with the new program becoming effective the next day.

Under the settlement, the CBAS benefit will be offered as part of California’s Section 1115 Medicaid Waiver. Although the new program will not limit enrollment, more restrictive enrollment criteria is expected to reduce the numbers receiving services, resulting in a cost-savings to the State. CBAS will be similar to current ADHC offerings, including center-based skilled health and nursing care, therapies, transportation and other services to eligible people with disabilities and low income seniors.

Information from *CDCAN DISABILITY RIGHTS REPORT #013-2012 - JANUARY 24, 2012*



Sandra Fitzpatrick, top right, is pictured with members of the 2011 Senior Center Advisory Committee (clockwise from top left) Virgie Walker, Marian Last, Gary Passmore, Barbara Linski, Elsie Larriva, Valorie Villela and Peter Rittenhouse.

CCoA Director Fitzpatrick Nominated for NISC Founders Award

CCoA Executive Director Sandra Fitzpatrick has been nominated for the National Institute of Senior Center’s Annual Founders Award, which recognizes outstanding professional leadership in the senior center field. Fitzpatrick’s nomination came out of her work on the California Commission on Aging Senior Center Initiative, which included statewide Senior Center Stakeholder Forums in 2009 and 2011, a literature review on senior centers, a legislative hearing at the State Capitol, outreach to the state’s senior center organizations, and a publication highlighting senior center innovations. Fitzpatrick, worked with an advisory panel comprised senior center directors to plan the activities associated with the four-plus year long initiative. The award winner will be announced March 28th at the NCOA/NISC conference in Washington D.C.

AGE WATCH is an occasional publication of the California Commission on Aging (CCoA) intended to inform, educate, and advocate. The CCoA is an independent state agency established in 1973 to serve as the principal state advocate on behalf of older Californians. The CCoA office is located at 1300 National Drive, Suite 173, Sacramento, CA 95834. (916) 419-7591 www.ccoa.ca.gov

NCOA Voices Concern over President's FY13 Budget Proposal

The President's budget proposal for FY 2012-2013 includes a balance of cuts and revenue increases in programs for older adults, according to the National Council on Aging (NCOA).

Among programs receiving new or restored funding are:

- First-time Elder Justice Act funds in the form of \$8 million for an Adult Protective Services demonstration project;
- **Restoration of most of the 2011 Alzheimer's Demonstration Grant cuts;**
- \$100 million for new Section 202 Housing units for the elderly;
- \$10 million more for reverse mortgage and other housing counseling services;
- \$10 million more for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which funds nutritious food packages for seniors at food banks across the country.

Proposed reductions include:

- Over \$400 million from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP);
- A 50% reduction in Community Services Block Grant funds, impacting a national network of anti-poverty organizations that administer programs ranging from OAA meals programs to LIHEAP.
- **\$4.5 billion over 10 years from the Affordable Care Act's Prevention and Public Health Fund, although the program would be fully funded at \$1.25 billion in FY13.**
- \$358.5 billion in cuts to Medicare (\$302.8 billion) and Medicaid (\$55.7 billion) over 10 years.
- No restoration of the \$19 million that was eliminated from OAA Title IV for Program Innovations.

NCOA voiced concerns about three proposals in the President's budget that would shift additional costs onto new Medicare beneficiaries as of 2017. Those cuts would not impact current beneficiaries. The changes include:

- Higher annual Medicare Part B up-front deductible for physician and other outpatient services. Currently \$162, this fee would increase by \$25 for new enrollees in 2017, 2019, and 2021 (a \$75 total increase).
- For the first time, new beneficiaries would pay a \$100 copayment per treatment episode for home health services, unless they have been discharged from a hospital or skilled nursing facility.
- New beneficiaries who buy certain first dollar Medigap supplemental insurance policies would pay a 15% additional surcharge on those policies, about \$30 per month.

Excerpted from the National Council on Aging, NCOA Week, Feb. 14, 2012.



“Dual Eligibles” Plan Released

California’s Dept. of Health Care Services last month released proposed budget “trailer bill” language authorizing implementation and expansion of the pilot project to move California’s “dual eligibles” into managed care. Designed to implement the Brown Administration’s 2011-2012 budget plan to coordinate care for seniors and persons with disabilities who are eligible for both Medicare and MediCal, the original proposal would have developed four pilot projects to begin the new coverage. The Administration’s new proposal is asking the Legislature to expand that demonstration project to 10 counties. The proposal also calls for shifting non-medical supportive services, such as In-Home Supportive Services, into the managed care benefit dual eligibles will receive. The plan will be vetted by budget committees in both houses before possible approval by the budget Conference committee in May.

Information from California Disability Community Action Network REPORT #020-2012, February 7, 2012

Alzheimer’s Research Funding Boosted for 2012 - 2013

The Obama Administration has announced new efforts to fight Alzheimer’s disease, including an additional \$50 million for cutting-edge Alzheimer’s research and an \$80 million increase in research funding through the federal FY 2013 budget. The effort also includes an additional \$26 million for caregiver support, provider education, public awareness and improvements in data infrastructure.

In January 2011, President Obama signed the National Alzheimer’s Project Act, which calls for an aggressive and coordinated national Alzheimer’s disease plan. The Act also establishes an Advisory Council on Alzheimer’s Research, Care, and Services. The Administration’s combined 2012 and 2013 investments total \$130 million in new Alzheimer’s research funding for both basic and clinical research at the National Institute of Health

Excerpted from Health and Human Services press release “We can’t wait: Administration announces new steps to fight Alzheimer’s disease,” Feb.

Governor’s Budget Proposes Elimination of California Caregiver Resource Centers

Governor Brown’s proposed budget for 2012-2013 looks to eliminate all state funding for the California Caregiver Resource Centers. The reduction would mean the loss of \$3.9 million federal dollars which require the state matching funds.

The Caregiver Resource Center system strengthens California’s economy by helping working families who care for a loved one to keep that individual at home. 67.1% of California caregivers hold down full or part-time jobs. (UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, 2011). Working family caregivers contribute to the economy through their taxes and save the state Medicaid dollars that are often required to cover the cost of institutional care. In addition, over 4 million family caregivers in California provide \$47 billion in unpaid services to manage medical care and activities of daily living to enable their loved ones to remain safely at home and avoid costly institutionalization (AARP Public Policy Institute, 2008). For additional information or questions, please contact Vicki Farrell at 530-872-2609 or vfarrell@csuchico.edu or Erin Levi, Lehman Levi Pappas & Sadler at 916-441-5333 or levi@lobbycal.com.



The topic of family caregiving will be the focus of a joint oversight hearing of the Assembly Aging & Long-Term Care and Human Services committee on Tuesday, March 13 at 2 p.m. at the Capitol.

Information provided by the Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition.

*The Triple-A Council of California --
Who are they and what do they do?*

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One of the CCoA's responsibilities is to meet with, consult, and assist in "training, planning, and development of advocacy skills" the state's 33 area agency on aging advisory councils. As required by the Older Americans Act, the 33 area agencies on aging (AAA) in California each have an advisory body made up of older adults and other interested individuals. AAA advisory bodies play varying roles in the work of the AAA, assisting with information gathering and development of local area plans, reviewing provider contracts and organizing events.

The Triple-A Council of California (TACC) is comprised of the elected leaders of each area agency's advisory bodies. TACC meets on a regular basis to promote networking, education and leadership development among the Advisory Councils. TACC meetings provide the opportunity to learn about programs and policies affecting AAA services and other issues impacting older adults around the state.

TACC is independently funded through the California Seniors Special Fund tax check off (Box 400) on state income tax forms. Any California taxpayer 65 years of age or older by the preceding December 31st who claims the Senior Exemption Credit on line 9 may contribute up to \$102 to the fund. The CCoA administers TACC including the planning and staffing of meetings. Information on TACC meetings is available at www.4TACC.org.