

PRESS KIT

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Contacts:

Cathy Davis, Bayview Hunters Point Adult Day Health Care (415) 826-4774 x. 1003
Gayle Zahler, Jewish Family and Children Services L'Chaim ADHC, (415) 449-1286
Sarah Chan, Self Help for the Elderly Adult Day Services (415) 677-7565
Moli Steinert, SteppingStone Adult Day Health Care, (415) 974-6784 x. 25
LaNay Eastman, SF Adult Day Services Network, (415) 808-7371, leastman@sfadullday.org

Rally to STOP Elimination of Adult Day Health Care:

Medically Fragile Seniors and People with Disabilities Arrive at San Francisco City Hall with Wheelchairs and Walkers to Ask Civic Leaders to Protect Services being Dismantled by the State!

What:

Adult Day Health Care patients, their families, caregivers, and other healthcare providers assembled today voice their indignation and fears of the unacceptable human and financial consequences of losing Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) as a vital Medi-Cal benefit effective December 1, 2011.

Governor Brown's attempt to balance the state budget with his elimination decision is plunging San Francisco's frail seniors and disabled adults - and their families - into an emergency threat of unnecessary institutionalization as there are no cost effective alternatives available.

Where: San Francisco City Hall, Polk Street steps

When: Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 12 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Why:

*San Francisco seniors and people with disabilities are facing **an immediate crisis** as no adequate, appropriate, and comparable optional services will exist after **December 1, 2011**.*

For decades, the 10 Adult Day Health Care centers in San Francisco have provided a proven method of comprehensive and cost-effective, community-based health care for a wide variety of frail seniors and adults with disabilities living with multiple chronic diseases; 46% of this population lives alone and between 25%-40% have Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia.

The closure of these ADHC programs would be an immeasurable and irreparable loss to San Francisco, not only to the currently enrolled, 1,355 patients and their families, but to the City's economy with loss of jobs and reduction of business to independent vendors. There is no doubt that the destruction of the ADHC programs will result in increased 911 calls, hospital emergency room visits, and premature placement in nursing homes.

According to Moli Steinert, executive director of SteppingStone Adult Day Health Care "Elimination of ADHC makes no sense from a revenue saving perspective because it will end up costing at least five times the cost when these patients go to the emergency room, hospital or nursing homes. It makes no sense from a public health perspective either, because without the wrap around services of ADHC, patients will actually die. We are pleased to know that our San Francisco civic leaders and our long term care services organization partners are committed to help keep the doors open."

In March of this year, ADHCs were eliminated as a Medi-Cal optional benefit. A new, lower enrollment program was meant to take its place – Keeping Adults Free from Institutions or "KAFI". Governor Brown vetoed the legislation establishing KAFI, AB 96 on July 25. A lawsuit has been filed by Disability Rights California challenging the state's right to eliminate the program. A hearing on the motion for a preliminary injunction is scheduled for November 8, 2011.

Among the Speakers are:

- Mayor Ed Lee
- Anne Hinton, Executive Director, Department of Aging and Adult Services
- Supervisor Eric Mar – District 1

- Supervisor Jane Kim – District 6
- Supervisor David Chiu – District 3, President Board of Supervisors
- Senator Leland Yee, D-San Francisco/San Mateo, Human Services Committee
- Hene Kelly, Vice President of CARA, Legislative Committee

AND telling their stories:

Mrs. Amparo Carreon was born and raised in the Philippines and is 86 years old. She was married for 53 years, her husband passed away in 2008. She thinks about her husband and misses him dearly. Her sister left her family in Southern California to move in and take care of Amparo full time since she has no other family members in the US. She started attending SteppingStone Mabini Adult Day Health Care center in January 2010, due to feelings of sadness, loneliness, and isolation, and to prevent caregiver burnout. Because Amparo was not leaving her apartment, her osteoarthritis and glaucoma worsened. By attending SteppingStone Mabini ADHC she started leaving her apartment more often, exercising, and becoming happier with peer interaction. She is most proud of her 2 children, 4 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Amparo states she enjoys attending adult day health care because she feels a part of a community and is able to utilize physical therapy to ease her pain.

Radema (Rada) Klibaner is 86 years old. A Holocaust survivor, she emigrated from the Ukraine in 1993 with her husband, Boris. They started attending Jewish Family and Children Services L'Chaim Adult Day Health Care center in March 2006. Rada has multiple medical problems including Parkinson's disease, diabetes and hypertension. She has limited mobility and requires a cane and has severe tremors. She requires assistance with personal care. Rada considers L'Chaim ADHC an important source to reduce her feelings of social isolation and to stabilize her emotional needs especially with Boris' recent passing in September 2011. Without L'Chaim ADHC, she would become more isolated, depressed, anxious and feel an increasing sense of hopelessness. With the loss of the medical and socio-cognitive support needed to manage her Parkinson's disease and, it would only be 60 days before she would have to leave her community and be placed in a skilled nursing facility.

Su Zhen Fang came to SteppingStone Presentation Adult Day Health Care center in 2001 after being hit by a car that resulted in multiple life-long chronic injuries placing her at high risk for falls high fall risk and leaving her prone to episodes of severe depression. SteppingStone's registered nurse monitors her vitals, medication side effects, pain levels, and signs and symptoms of depression. Mrs. Fang has a full occupational and physical therapies maintenance program and additionally attends specialized exercise groups. She enjoys participating in activities program; especially Chinese singing, playing mah johng, and participating in the Chinese support group. Without her ADHC wrap around program, Mrs. Fang would lose her independence and end up in a nursing home.

Deundra Hundon is a lifetime resident and worker in the Bayview community and she works to help bridge the educational gap for low income students, most recently as Director of Programs and Services for Summerbridge. She is the older of two children of Ms. Sadie, who has been attending Bayview Hunters Point Adult Day Health Care center 5 days per week since 2006. Deundra is in the middle of an appeal to Medi-Cal department that is trying to cut her mom's services by two days per week. With ADHC benefit elimination, she is faced with two horrible choices: lose her job, or place her mom in a facility — if she can find one she is able to afford.

On behalf of the participants attending the San Francisco Adult Day Health Care centers:

Bayview Hunters Point, Circle of Friends, Golden State, Jewish Family & Children Services L'Chaim, SteppingStone Golden Gate, SteppingStone Mabini, SteppingStone Mission Creek, SteppingStone Presentation, St. Mary's, Self-Help for the Elderly,

Thank you to rally organizers and support:

Community Living Campaign and Planning For Elders (organizing); Project Open Hand (bag lunches) and Lifelong Medical Care (Berkeley) for sharing their fabulous STOP sign graphics.

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