



Adult day care plan is panned

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Adult day health care providers reacted with skepticism Tuesday to Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to replace a program that caters to needy seniors with an array of managed health care options, calling it vague and "hastily assembled."

Last Friday, Brown released a formal plan to transition the 35,000 clients of California's 300 adult day care centers into managed health care programs.

Critics seized on the vagaries of the proposal.

"Poor, chronically ill and disabled members of our society deserve more than a patchwork of inadequate services and false promises," Lydia Missaelides, executive director of the California Association for Adult Day Services, said in a statement.

She also noted that asking seniors to travel to different areas for services is not a replacement for the "one-stop and more affordable ADHC center offering integrated health care and social services."

As part of a cost-cutting measure, Brown killed the \$169 million adult day health care program and allocated \$85 million to help fund a transition plan.

Under Brown's proposal, seniors and adults who attend adult day health care centers would be assessed by case managers and enrolled in the new programs by Dec. 1.

Norman Williams, spokesman for the California Department of Health Care Services, said the goal would be to avoid "unnecessary institution (to nursing homes.)"

More than half of the state's adult day health care centers are in Los Angeles, and dozens are located in the San Fernando Valley. Many are staffed with full-time or visiting nurses, therapists, dietitians and other medical experts who provide services ranging from exercise classes to medical care to recreational games.

After reading Brown's proposal, Irena Isounts, program director at Salida Del Sol Center, an adult day health care center in North Hollywood, said she was confused about what services would be offered.