



# Guest Commentary: A new plan for serving Adult Day Health Care clients in the Eel River Valley

**Humboldt Beacon**

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Since 1994, the Humboldt Senior Resource Center's Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) program in Fortuna has provided a therapeutic day program offering nursing services, personalized therapy services, hot meals, social activities and counseling to adults with mental and physical disabilities. These same services are also offered at the main Humboldt Senior Resource Center campus in Eureka. In April, HSRC made the decision to consolidate our Adult Day Health Care services into one Eureka location.

This was not a decision that was made lightly. For the last several years, HSRC has struggled with a Medi-Cal reimbursement rate that was too low to cover the expenses of the ADHC program. State budget cuts continue to erode the fabric of community-based senior services. It has become impossible to continue business as usual in this economic climate. Even with tremendous support from local community foundations, it became necessary for the agency to reorganize the ADHC program so we could continue to serve the same clients but in a more efficient and economical way. This required consolidating the programs into one location.

We are extremely grateful to the community (local foundations, services groups, businesses and individuals) for the generous funding provided to ADHC in Fortuna. The original renovation of the building, the garden development, and expansion of the activity and therapy rooms have all been possible thanks to tremendous support from the community. The Fortuna facility has provided many frail, disabled adults with a wonderful Adult Day Health Care program which they will continue to enjoy in the new location. The Fortuna ADHC staff is to be commended for their commitment to their clients. Many of these staff will continue to provide care at the Eureka site.

A transition team has been working to make this change as smooth as possible for clients as well as staff. Nearly all of the Fortuna ADHC clients have made the move and are now attending the program in Eureka or will be by the end of the month. Transportation to Eureka continues to be provided for all clients. The program is still accepting new referrals.

The Humboldt Senior Resource Center continues its commitment to serve Eel River Valley seniors through Adult Day Health Care, the Senior Dining Center at Mountain View Village, Home Delivered Meals to homebound seniors, care management services through MSSP, Long-term Care Ombudsman services and distribution of Senior News.

Joyce Hayes, R.D. MS  
Executive Director  
Humboldt Senior Resource Center  
Eureka