



# St. Agnes Adult Day Health Care To Close

By KSEE News

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St. Agnes has to close its adult day health care center because it couldn't get the much-needed state reimbursement. Like other facilities, many participants at St. Agnes used Medi-cal and Medicare.

But last week, Governor Brown vetoed a bill that would've spared thousands from being institutionalized and kept funding as is.

Now, adult day health care centers are now suffering. Edward Saliba is vice president of the Valley Adult Day Health Care Center.

"If the system goes away, adult day health care industry goes away, trust me, rest assured that's going to cost the state more money."

Saliba says Governor Brown needs to take a closer look at facilities before he makes anymore cuts. He says it currently costs the state \$76 a person. If participants are institutionalized, officials say it will cost the state \$4,000 a person. "Our service prevents them from being institutionalized."

Saliba says institutions can't meet the complex medical needs that adult day cares can. But more than that, it's about the bond between staff and participants, like Peter Estrada. "They know I'm a diabetic, they check on me, check my pressure, they check my sugar, my system."

Because of the cuts in funding, nearly 70 participants that were at St. Agnes will now have to find care elsewhere. Officials say Fresno has lost three adult day care centers in as many years.

St. Agnes released a statement saying, "Our patients and community can be assured the we'll overcome these current challenges and that, in the end, Saint Agnes will emerge stronger and better positioned to continue our legacy of compassionate, quality patient care."