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Settlement means Poway Adult Health Care will stay open

By Pat Kumpan

A settlement reached Thursday in federal court by advocates for the disabled, the frail and elderly will allow Medi-Cal funding to continue for 35,000 low-income Adult Day Health Care clients through Feb. 29.

Adult Day Health Care centers, which currently serve clients in 300 centers statewide, were due to have funding eliminated Dec. 1.

Thursday's court decision means continued Medi-Cal coverage will be provided under Community-Based Adult Services, according to Elissa Gershon, a lawyer representing Disability Rights California.

"We're happy it's a good result," Gershon said.

Gershon said the court has time to review the settlement and provide a final approval.

Kathryn Holt, director of the ADHC Center in Poway, said, "We're incredibly relieved and breathing a huge sigh of relief.

"We don't know all the specific details about the new program and the transition, but it's good news for our seniors and employees," she added.

Holt and other ADHC providers had feared that their clients would be forced into nursing homes or institutionalized, she said.

According to Gershon, ADHS clients will have to apply, then be screened for the CBAS program.

The transition plan also allows for those who do not qualify for CBAS to receive benefits from other community-based care programs.



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