



Advisory Council affirms support for adult day care

Mary Anderson, Redwood Times

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The Advisory Council of the Area 1 Agency on Aging has unanimously affirmed its support for continued funding of Adult Day Health Care and the Multipurpose Senior Services Program. Both programs are slated for elimination in Governor Brown's proposed budget.

Adult Day Health Care serves 13,000 clients in California. The ADHC program at Humboldt Senior Resource Center in Eureka has 130 clients whose families rely on the program to care for their frail and elderly relative. Without the service, these clients are likely to be hospitalized, and since there are a lack of medical beds and staff in Humboldt County, the result may be transfer outside the area.

In the long run, ADHC is less costly for care of frail seniors and people with disabilities. The cost for ADHC services is about \$19,000 a year, compared to \$36,000 a year for long-term care in a nursing home.

Additionally, eliminating the programs will result in 75 layoffs at a cost of \$3 million to the local economy.

The Advisory Council members and the Area 1 Agency are mounting a phone call campaign to key legislators, Governor Jerry Brown, Assembly Member Wesley Chesbro and Senator Noreen Evans to keep the funding for ADHC at current levels.

For more information on this topic, call the Area 1 Agency on Aging at 1-80-408-4636 or visit their website at a1a.org.