

Sacramento adult health care center closes

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Published: Friday, Jun. 10, 2011 - 12:00 am | Page 1B

Services for approximately 110 seniors and other people with physical or developmental disabilities will end today, when [Sacramento's](#) Robertson Adult [Day Health Care Center](#) closes its doors.

[Jim MacDonald](#), a physical therapist who has owned the for-profit center at 3400 Elvas Ave. since 2006, said a number of factors led to the decision to close, including anticipated cuts in state funding and the cost of meeting state staffing requirements.

Adult day health care services are designed for people who might otherwise end up in [nursing homes](#).

"The sad thing is, the state is taking advantage of frail and weak and those that can't defend themselves," MacDonald said.

Democratic legislators propose \$85 million for adult day health care statewide for 2011-12, about half the funding for the current fiscal year, said [Lydia Missaelides](#), executive director of the [California Association for Adult Day Services](#).

The [Sacramento](#)-based association represents about half the 306 adult day health centers statewide.

Missaelides said the Robertson center is one of seven centers that have closed or announced they will close by the end of the month, and several others are on the association's "watch list." She said eight centers continue to operate in [Sacramento County](#).

Hardest hit by reduced Medi-Cal payments for adult day [health services](#) and state budget uncertainties are relatively small centers like Robertson and those in rural areas, Missaelides said.

Licensed to serve 49 clients a day, the Robertson center opened in 1985.

As recently as 10 years ago, Missaelides said, Robertson was considered about average in terms of size. But with lower reimbursements and increased medical costs, centers now must be larger to be fiscally viable.

The centers are reimbursed \$76 per patient per day, \$37 of which is from the state, with the remainder coming from the federal government. That covers physical therapy and other skilled health services, as well as transportation and a meal, Missaelides said.

MacDonald said he had sought the state's permission to increase the center's licensed capacity so he could serve more private-pay patients to compensate for state funding cutbacks.

"For a facility my size, the state requires [staffing levels](#) that I can't meet from the fiscal side," he said.

MacDonald said he has been losing \$10,000 to \$15,000 a month, and last year he went 100 days without state payments due to the [Legislature's](#) delay in adopting the state budget.

"It's really tragic that it had to come to this," Missaelides said, "but it is an incredibly difficult economic situation in the state, and these are the cards we have to deal with."