

Letter-writing campaign begins against proposed adult health care cuts

The Times-Standard

Posted: 01/21/2011 01:10:25 AM PST

The Humboldt Senior Resource Center has begun a letter-writing campaign to urge members of the California Legislature to reject Gov. Jerry Brown's budget proposal to eliminate adult day health care.

In a letter to potential letter writers, Maggie Kraft, director of Adult Day Health and Alzheimer's Services, said Brown's proposed budget would eliminate adult day health care.

Kraft urged letter writers to note that the elimination of ADHC "is a bad choice that will cost taxpayers at least \$51 million more than it saves, worsen emergency room overcrowding and harm the most vulnerable frail elderly and medically compromised adults in our state."

"The ADHC program already has been reduced in previous budgets. Elimination or further cuts would result in immediate closures of 300 programs," she added.

According to Kraft, the Humboldt Senior Resource Center operates two adult day health care programs in Humboldt County which provide care to more than 100 elders and adults with multiple, chronic health conditions and assistance to their families every week.

Should Brown's proposal be enacted, she said, the more than 80 percent of participants eligible for Medi-Cal "will be unable to maintain their current living situation without our program's services."

"Our local nursing homes do not have enough beds or staff to accept all of our participants who will need their services without our program," she added.

"Our local hospitals will not be able to manage the increased use of the emergency room and hospital setting for our participants who will no longer receive the medical restorative and preventative care we provide."