



CAADS

California Association for Adult Day Services

921 11th Street
Suite 1100
Sacramento, California
95814

Phone: 916.552.7400
Fax: 916.552.7404
E-mail: caads@caads.org
Web: www.caads.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 14, 2011

Contact: Carri Ziegler, 916-341-0472, carri@zieglerassociates.net
Or Corinne Chee, 916-508-1611, corinne@zieglerassociates.net

Senior Advocates Fear Budget Language May End Adult Day Health Care

SACRAMENTO – Senior advocates, who have waged a strong grassroots campaign to ensure lawmakers understand how Adult Day Health Care saves lives and saves the state money, today are making hundreds of calls asking state legislators to make certain that ADHC budget bill language ensures care can be provided to medically fragile seniors while ADHC is converted from a Medi-Cal optional benefit to a federal waiver program. Representatives for ADHC fear that if the budget bill eliminates ADHC as a state Medi-Cal benefit at the end of this fiscal year, June 30, the model program will wither as funds dry up before transition to a federal waiver program can be completed.

“Unless the date for eliminating Adult Day Health Care as a Medi-Cal benefit is linked to the time we gain federal approval for an ADHC waiver, programs will not be reimbursed for the care they provide and will have no choice but to close their doors,” said Lydia Missaelides, executive director of the California Association for Adult Day Services.

The budget bill and accompanying “trailer bills” may come up for a vote as early as today, and still senior advocates have not seen the legislative language that governs changes to ADHC.

“We have reached out to lawmakers offering language to ensure a smooth conversion of the state program to the federal waiver program. However, a waiver will take months to draft and be processed for approval by the federal government. If ADHC is eliminated as a Medi-Cal benefit before a waiver is approved, adult day health centers will not be paid for their services to medically fragile seniors and disabled adults. We simply cannot operate indefinitely while the state drafts a waiver to submit for federal approval. That’s why it’s so important for the state elimination of ADHC be linked to approval of a federal waiver ADHC program,” Missaelides said.

Senior advocates are asking lawmakers to:

- Remove uncertainty by allowing ADHC policy experts to review proposed budget language.
- Ensure the budget language calls for an orderly conversion from ADHC as a state Medi-Cal optional benefit to a federal waiver program so medically frail elders and their families are not thrown into turmoil.
- Understand that if the ADHC Medi-Cal benefit is eliminated before the new waiver program is approved by the federal government, centers will not receive reimbursement for the services they provide and will be forced to close their doors.
- Know that once a center is closed, the restart costs are formidable and will make it impossible for many of the non-profits and individuals who own and operate ADHCs to reopen.

###