



CAADS

California Association for Adult Day Services

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Media Statement

CAADS and California's Nearly 300 Adult Day Health Care Centers Applaud Federal Court Settlement Reached in Lawsuit over Fight to Save Adult Day Health Care from Closure on December 1st

Case was Brought Against the CA Department of Health Care Services for Violation of Americans with Disabilities Act on Grounds It Failed to Provide Adequate Transition Plan for Medically Needy and Elder Californians Ordered Out of the Community-Based Program

(Sacramento, CA) – “Immense relief” and “joy” are the words that California Association for Adult Day Services Executive Director Lydia Missaelides uses to describe the sentiments of tens of thousands of elder, chronically ill and disabled patients after a major settlement was reached today in a lawsuit against the state brought on their behalf by Disabilities Rights California. Missaelides said:

“Throughout this entire year, 35,000 low-income, medically needy patients and their families have endured incredible stress and lived in fear that they would no longer be able to access care at their local Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) center.

“To know that these patients’ legal rights have been preserved is a huge comfort to us and to tens of thousands of Californians throughout the state. This decision means those in the care of our centers will be able to stay at home and in their communities and receive necessary medical and therapeutic services without interruption. We are grateful that the nearly 300 ADHC centers statewide have been given a reprieve to stay open past the planned December 1 closure, resulting in 7,000 jobs being saved and vendors being spared further cuts to their local businesses.

“This settlement makes it clear that the services provided by center-based adult day health programs are irreplaceable in preventing or reducing use of higher-cost institutional services

such as nursing homes and hospital emergency rooms, and honors patient dignity and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

“We are looking forward to collaborating with the State as we move forward in this transition. We see many challenges ahead as the details of implementation of the settlement are finalized and put in place. We are committed to working in partnership with the state and DRC to make this settlement agreement a success for all parties.

“We wish to express our deep appreciation to Disability Rights California and their co-counsel National Senior Citizens Law Center, National Health Law Program, AARP Foundation Litigation, and Morrison & Foerster, LLP for defending the rights of Adult Day Health Care patients and their working families, and to preserve the model of Adult Day Health Care and the valuable safety net it provides.”

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Visit the CAADS website at www.caads.org for more information about the legal case. Interviews can be scheduled by calling 916-341-0472 or emailing carri@zieglerassociates.net or corinne@zieglerassociates.net.