

PRESS RELEASE

October, 2011



Contact:

Edit Ruano

O: 510.550.8176, C: 530.305.9427

Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan Leads Effort to Save Adult Day Health Care

Oakland, CA – Community leaders, health care workers, caregivers and local residents today joined Supervisor Wilma Chan for a rally against the elimination of Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) in Alameda County and throughout the state. ADHC, which is set to end on December 1st due to state budget cuts, provides elderly and disabled Californians with the medical and therapeutic services they need to continue living in the community.

At the rally today, Supervisor Chan called for the state government to stop the ADHC elimination now and make sure these critical services are funded for next year and future years.

“There are hundreds of lives at risk in Alameda County,” said Supervisor Chan. “It is incredible that the state would choose not to continue to support this successful program for seniors and adults with disabilities or to establish a clear, well-executed, and effective transition plan for supporting the patients who will be abandoned when they lose this essential Medi-Cal benefit.”

On December 1st, ADHC centers across the state will close, 7,000 jobs will be lost and at least 35,000 seniors and disabled Californians, including 880 Alameda County residents, will be left without the essential care that keeps them living safely at home and out of nursing homes. The costs of eliminating ADHC are expected to be staggering and tragic; visits to emergency rooms are expected to skyrocket, hospitalizations will grow and demand for nursing home services will dramatically increase at a time of already limited availability. Yet, with only 30 days remaining before the cuts take place, the state has not developed a realistic transition plan for the tens of thousands of seniors and disabled Californians who depend on ADHC.

“The state’s precipitous decision to eliminate ADHC will have consequences both for our economy and for the many seniors and disabled adults that depend on these services,” continued Supervisor Chan. “The end of Adult Day Health Care means 7,000 more unemployed Californians and tens of thousands of seniors and disabled adults without care. That’s why a six-month delay in the elimination of ADHC is critical. At the very least, the state needs to develop a thorough plan to address the needs of our most vulnerable seniors and disabled Californians.”

Anne Warner Reitz, Executive Director of the Alameda County Adult Day Services Network, the local association of ADHC providers said, “The state claims ADHC patients will be transitioned to community services that will protect their health, but this is not the case. These ‘replacement’ services are not

available everywhere, have long wait lists, and often are not appropriate for meeting the health needs of medically complex and vulnerable ADHC patients.”

The rally with Supervisor Chan took place today on the steps of the County of Alameda Administration Building in downtown Oakland.

More information about Adult Day Health Care may be found at the California Association for Adult Day Services’ website: <http://www.caads.org/>.

###

About ADHC in Alameda County

ADHCs provide multiple health and social services in a coordinated fashion under one roof, integrating care that would otherwise be fragmented, difficult to access and more costly. There are no other services that provide such comprehensive care for community-dwelling people with disabilities and their family caregivers. In Alameda County, there are seven ADHCs operating as non-profits. These centers complement each other: three are for patients with dementia; two focus on Asian immigrant populations; and two integrate primary medical care with ADHC through affiliation with community health centers. There is virtually no overlap or redundancy in services provided, and they are separated geographically.

About Supervisor Wilma Chan

Supervisor Wilma Chan is Alameda County Supervisor for the Third District and former Majority Leader of the Assembly and Chair of the Committee on Health of the California Assembly.