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**Press Release**

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**State Decimates Alameda County Safety Net with Steep Cuts to Adult Day Health Care Programs**

*Jobs and health services at risk—families share stories*

**Oakland, CA—** Last month, the California Legislature approved cuts to the Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) programs, essentially decimating crucial health programs for adults and seniors in Alameda County. Starting July 1, 2011, ADHC funding will be suspended pending approval by the federal government. Currently, ADHC programs provide critical and life-sustaining services and care to an estimated 37,000 Californians.

“Alameda County has very few ADHCs compared to other urban areas in California,” said Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan. “Here, there are only seven ADHCs, all of them non-profits serving the diverse needs of our population. I am committed to working with the Board of Supervisors and health care providers throughout the county to find a solution to this policy disaster that is putting the health and welfare of Alameda County residents at risk.”

Of the seven ADHC centers, three for patients with dementia, two focus on Asian immigrant populations, and two integrate primary medical care with ADHC through affiliation with community health centers. Each year, more than 881 adults benefit from the Adult Day Services Network and the centers employ approximately 220 people.

“Beyond the impact of these program cuts on the health of Alameda County residents,” continued Supervisor Chan, “it is unconscionable that 220 people are at risk of losing their jobs providing these essential services in the county.”

“With the state’s actions, our ability to serve hundreds of frail seniors will be greatly reduced. In addition, our organization’s workforce may be reduced by as much as 30-40%,” said Corinne Jan, CEO of Family Bridges Hong Fook Centers.

The Legislature has indicated plans to develop a new program called Keeping Adults from Institutions (KAFI) that would operate under a federal Medicaid waiver. \$85 million has been allocated for the transition out of ADHC to this new program next year. The \$85 million budget is approximately half the funding previously allocated to ADHC annually.

AB 1415 is a bill authored by Assemblyman Bob Blumenfield that calls for an expedited and orderly conversion of ADHC from a Medi-Cal state program to a federal program. The intent of the bill is to continue a community-based system of quality adult day health care services similar to the ADHC, but would be operated by the federal government and would receive less state funding. AB 1415 is slated to be heard in the Assembly Health and Assembly Long term Care committees.

“ADHCs in Alameda County cannot serve frailer and sick patients with less funding,” said Alex Briscoe, director of Alameda Health Care Services Agency. “Our county’s ADHCs already serve 881 of the community’s most

vulnerable elders. It is not tenable to require that they provide the same level of care to more frail people with significantly less funding.”

“What we do know is that a seamless transition is critical,” said Martin Lynch, CEO of LifeLong Medical Care. “ADHC must not be phased out before the new KAFI program is launched. A gap in services will result in unacceptable strains on families and physical and mental deterioration of patients, leading to hospitalizations and nursing home placements.”

Mr. Liang first came to the Hong Fook ADHC center in Oakland after suffering a stroke that impaired his cognitive functions. His wife, Mrs. Huang is 78 years old and has high blood pressure, heart problems, diabetes, and stress-related insomnia. When Mr. Liang arrived at Hong Fook, he was unable to talk, hear or see. With speech and physical therapy and counseling services, he has shown a marked improvement in his health. Mrs. Huang has also benefited from individual counseling and group caregiver support which have given her the support she needs to deal with the impact of her husband’s stroke. Mrs. Huang is nervous about the future of ADHC services for herself and her husband.

“Please don’t close ADHC. I am aging and can’t take care of my husband by myself. Those 4 hours are the only time I have when I can completely relax, sleep, or take care of things. Without ADHC services, we would be completely homebound and would likely end up in a skilled nursing home unable to maintain a normal life in the community. I know my husband will suffer and quickly decline in such a situation. It will be a sad situation for both of us,” said Mrs. Huang.

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#### **About Supervisor Wilma Chan**

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

#### **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 inadequate and fragmented. There are no other services that provide such comprehensive care for community-dwelling people with disabilities and their loved ones. 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.