



## SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADRC DESIGNATION BY CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

Aging & Independence Services and Access to Independence submitted an ADRC designation application to the California Health & Human Services Agency. The ADRC designation application was approved making San Diego County's ADRC the first to be awarded the official designation as a certified ADRC in the state of California. This designation helps position San Diego County's ADRC for additional future funding opportunities to serve the older adult and disability community more effectively. The ADRC has also developed more substantial educational and outreach materials to keep stakeholders informed about updates connected with the provision of long term care services and supports.

### ACCESS TO INDEPENDENCE AWARDED MIPPA FUNDING

The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA), an extensive piece of legislation that included provisions to strengthen Medicare for low-income beneficiaries, increase accountability measures for Medicare Advantage programs, and reduce racial/ethnic disparities among Medicare patients, was enacted by Congress in 2008. Access to Independence has been contracted to utilize round 3 MIPPA funding to help those with Medicare benefits apply for Medicare Part D Extra Help/Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) and Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) services. Funds are also used to provide Part D counseling for those living in rural areas and increase awareness and utilization of Medicare prevention and wellness benefits. Since March 2014, Access to Independence has reached to 425 individuals and they have increased the enrollment of the beneficiaries from the LIS, the MSP, and Medicare Part D programs by 162 people.



## COUNTY BOLSTERS OVERSIGHT OF LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

The County of San Diego is getting tougher on nursing homes and elder care facilities that provide inadequate care to older and vulnerable adults. The Board of Supervisors approved a package of reforms that will create a special prosecution unit in the District Attorney's Office, expand the County's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and develop a ratings system for care facilities. The initiatives would:

- Double the number of full-time patient advocates in the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program from 4 to 8
- Create a special 8-person unit in the District Attorney's Office to investigate and prosecute crimes committed against long-term care facility residents
- Develop a grading system or type of seal to help families find quality care facilities
- Advocate for legislation that would increase state inspections and fines, create a patient rights program and make other reforms to improve the health and safety of long-term care facility residents



## LONG TERM CARE INTEGRATION PROJECT

- ⊕ The Community-Based Care Transitions Program (CCTP) is a partnership between AIS and 13 hospitals within Sharp, Scripps, UCSD, and Palomar Health Systems. More than 15,000 patients have been served since January 2013. CCTP is reducing the all-cause 30 day readmission rate among fee-for-service Medicare patients by providing comprehensive hospital and community based, person-centered, care transition services.
- ⊕ Coordinated Care Initiative – as of July 1, 2014 there were 7,826 active enrollments in Cal MediConnect and another 4,919 are projected to enroll over the months of August and September. The number of consumers requesting to opt-out of Cal MediConnect is higher than anticipated.
- ⊕ The next LTCIP meeting is on 9/12/14 at the County Operations Center-AIS, JA Training Room, San Diego, CA, 92123.

# What's Happening



## RAISING EXPECTATIONS, 2014

*A State Scorecard on Long Term Services and Supports for Older Adults, People with Physical Disabilities, and Family Caregivers*

The State's Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Scorecard is a multidimensional approach to measure state-level performance of LTSS systems that assist older people, adults with disabilities, and their family caregivers. This second edition of the State LTSS Scorecard measures LTSS system performance across five key dimensions: (1) affordability and access, (2) choice of setting and provider, (3) quality of life and quality of care, (4) support for family caregivers, and (5) effective transitions. To learn more about the Scorecard and how California fared, please [click here](#).

## \$1915(c) HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES (HCBS) WAIVERS

*Modifications to Quality Measures and Reporting*

Modifications to the HCBS waivers were issued on March 12, 2014. The National Association of States United in Aging and Disability (NASUAD), National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD), along with waiver administrators from eleven states and the National Quality Enterprise, worked with CMS for over a year to develop and refine these changes. Other stakeholders also had an opportunity to comment through conference and webinar sessions. To read the modifications, please [click here](#).

## LONG TERM CARE IN CALIFORNIA

The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research released an issue brief with survey results on long-term care in California. The brief provides new data on how Californians are, or are not, planning for long-term care and their views on the roles of family and government. To read the brief [click here](#).

### In Their Own Words

The HOME Project (**H**elping Older-adults **M**aintain independence**E**) is an ongoing qualitative study being conducted by UCLA's Center for Health Policy Research that is documenting the experiences of older Californians with disabilities who depend on paid public programs and unpaid help to live safely and independently at home. In-depth interviews are being conducted with older adult consumers of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and their caregivers. The HOME Project is currently focusing on dual eligibles and the Cal MediConnect managed care program. To read their latest policy note, please follow the link.

[How California Can Ensure Continuity of Care for Vulnerable Seniors Transitioning to Managed Care](#)

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

### SERVING SENIORS

Serving Seniors, a recognized leader in creating healthy, safe and thriving communities for older adults in San Diego County, became a *Live Well San Diego* partner on January 10, 2014. Serving Seniors has been a provider of congregate and home-delivered meals for the past 44 years. It serves breakfast and lunch seven days a week downtown, and will serve 550,000 nutritious meals this year, including 220,000 delivered to home-bound seniors in four regions throughout San Diego County.

Serving Seniors staff also helped the County of San Diego's Aging & Independence Services pilot the More on the Menu (MOM) program which provides regular deliveries of fresh fruits and vegetables to homebound seniors. Furthermore, Serving Seniors demonstrates its commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of seniors in San Diego County through their innovative "Passport to Health" program kiosk. This kiosk measures vital health markers and sends the data to the patient and Care Coordinator to be used as part of a comprehensive plan to ensure that the senior receives the health and wellness care he/she needs. Thank you, Serving Seniors!



**SERVING  
SENIORS**

Formerly Senior Community Centers

## CALIFORNIA'S COLLABORATIVE FOR LONG TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS



The California Collaborative for Long-Term Services and Supports (CCLTSS) is a coalition of statewide organizations serving seniors and persons with disabilities. These organizations have agreed to a set of principles and meet regularly to exchange information and to work toward consensus on the design of an integrated system of long term services and supports in California. The Collaborative also serves as a sounding board for the Legislature and the administration as they consider changes in services for seniors and persons with disabilities, from acute care hospitalization and nursing home care to home and community-based services.

The LTCIP has been awarded a two-year grant from The SCAN Foundation to serve as the Regional Coalition for San Diego County carrying on the great work accomplished over the past two years by the San Diego Senior Alliance. United by a common vision of high-quality client-driven care, LTCIP represents the county on the California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports whose goal is to transform the state's system of LTSS.

### CCLTSS' GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Dignity:** The services are grounded in respect for the person who uses them and driven by the preferences of that person

**Choice:** Access to all types of services is provided on an equal footing.

**Flexibility:** The services are comprehensive and flexible enough to meet changing needs and incorporate new modes of service and supports.

**Quality:** Public funding and oversight that values and rewards high-quality care.

**Legality:** The services are consistent with the legal rights of individuals who use them.

**Cultural Competence:** The services are appropriate and responsive to the needs of unserved and underserved populations.

**Accessibility:** The services and information about them are easy to locate and use and are physically and programmatically accessible.

**Affordability:** The services are cost-effective for the person and the system.

**Inclusive:** The system recognizes and supports the crucial role of high-quality paid and unpaid caregivers, including family caregivers, and emphasizes the importance of workforce development and training.

**Independence:** The services support maximum independence, full social integration and quality of life.

### TRAINING & CONTINUING EDUCATION



- ⊕ CCI Basics Webinar - National Senior Citizens Law Center. Tuesday, August 5, 2014, from 11am -12pm. [Register here.](#)
- ⊕ Caregiver Webinar "When it's Time for Mom and Dad to Move", Valerie Upham, Pacific Sotheby's International Realty, Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup> NOON to 12:30. Register at [www.caregivercoalitionSD.org](http://www.caregivercoalitionSD.org)
- ⊕ The NASUAD Annual HCBS Conference | September 13-18, Arlington, VA. For more information about the conference and/or register, please follow the [link.](#)
- ⊕ The SCAN Foundation's 2014 Annual Long Term Services & Supports Summit September 30, 2014 at the Sacramento Convention Center. For more information about the conference and/or to register, please follow the [link.](#)