





## COUNTY AGING PROGRAMS EARN INNOVATION AWARDS

San Diego County programs, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) and the Legacy Corps, were two of thirteen programs to receive the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging highest honor, the Innovation Award. Supervisor Greg Cox leads the GRG initiative which assists grandparents and other relative caregivers who are raising younger family members. Workshops that feature resource fairs, support groups and expert speakers have been provided around the county. Legacy Corps provides support and respite for veteran and military families caring for a loved one. Both programs are part of Live Well San Diego, the County's initiative to improve the health and safety of residents. "These programs highlight the County's commitment through *Live Well San Diego* to take fresh approaches in how we deliver services, and respond to the needs in our communities," said Nick Macchione, Director of the Health and Human Services Agency.



## SAN DIEGO VETERANS INDEPENDENCE SERVICES AT ANY AGE (SD-VISA)

San Diego County's Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) has launched San Diego Veterans Independence Services at any Age (SD-VISA), the first Veterans-Directed Home and Community Based Services Program (VD-HCBS) in California. This program gives veterans of any age who are at risk of nursing home placement the opportunity to self-manage a budget to purchase the supports they need to live safely and independently in the community. SD-VISA is administered by Aging & Independence Services in partnership with the VA Medical Center which refers veterans to SD-VISA to receive a comprehensive, veteran-centered assessment to help them identify their needs, goals, and preferences. The veteran then establishes a service plan and receives ongoing financial management services to manage employer taxes and payments. Veteran-directed Options Counseling ensures that veterans are receiving services according to their service plan, and that any new or changed needs are identified and addressed timely. SD-VISA will run for two years and will serve at least 30 San Diego County veterans.

## SAN DIEGO CARE TRANSITIONS PARTNERSHIP (SDCTP)



The San Diego Care Transitions Partnership (SDCTP), a partnership between AIS and Palomar Health, Scripps Health, Sharp HealthCare and the University of California San Diego (UCSD) Health System (13 hospitals) was awarded the Community-based Care Transitions Program (CTTP) by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to improve care transitions for high-risk, fee-for-services (FFS) Medicare patients. The SDCTP has been remarkably successful in meeting CMS' goals. Between January 2013 and September 2014, some 21,447 FFS Medicare beneficiaries received comprehensive services to reduce their risk for a readmission. And while the county's FFS Medicare population is growing, they are requiring fewer hospitalizations, and SDCTP's best practices have been implemented for high-risk patients funded by other payers. The SDCTP has achieved an unprecedented level of community engagement to transform the delivery of acute and post-acute care for patients who are at high risk for a readmission or adverse healthcare outcomes following an in-patient hospitalization.



## LONG TERM CARE INTEGRATION PROJECT

- ✦ The next LTCIP meeting is on December 12, 2014 at the County Operations Center-AIS 5560 Overland Ave., JA Training Room, San Diego, CA, 92123.

# What's Happening



## CMS' CAL MEDICONNECT EVALUATION DESIGN PLAN

### Measurement, Monitoring, & Evaluation of State Demonstrations to Integrate Care for Dual Eligible Individuals

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contracted with RTI International to monitor the implementation of Cal MediConnect, evaluate the impact of Cal MediConnect on the beneficiary experience, monitor unintended consequences, and monitor and evaluate the Cal MediConnect's impact on a range of outcomes for the eligible population as a whole and for subpopulations (e.g., people with mental illness and/or substance use disorders, LTSS recipients). To read the evaluation plan in its entirety, please [click here](#).

## POVERTY AND OPPORTUNITY PROFILE | SENIORS

### Half in 10

Nearly half of all seniors (65+), or about 19.9 million, are considered economically vulnerable, meaning they live on income less than two times the supplemental poverty threshold. [Click here](#) for more information.

## PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING IN MANAGED LONG-TERM SERVICES & SUPPORTS

### Can Reality Match Rhetoric?

Person-centered planning is critical to the well-being of consumers of long-term services and supports. In order for person-centeredness to be more than an empty slogan, it must be accompanied by standards set forth in managed care organization (MCO) contract language. Some states have begun to include person-centered planning requirements in their contracts and this provides an analysis of what states are doing in their managed care contracts to ensure person-centered planning. [Click here](#) for more information.

## In Their Own Words

### Mr. & Mrs. M – A San Diego Care Transition Partnership (SDCTP) Success Story

This couple was in the hospital at the same time, then both were placed in a skilled nursing facility for rehabilitation. Mrs. M had been her husband's primary caregiver, but as he was being discharged home, she had to be readmitted into the hospital as the result of a seizure.

During the home visit, the Aging & Independence Services (AIS) Care Transitions Intervention (CTI) Coach found Mr. M in a cold house, wearing dirty clothing and appearing confused. His medications were not organized and some were missing. He had food, but primarily frozen dinners.

The AIS Care Enhancement social worker linked with other family members and discovered that there had been regular paid caregivers checking in on the couple for a few hours each week. AIS was able to ensure more hours of caregiving were provided and that Mr. M's medications were managed and dispensed by a nurse.

When Mrs. M returned home, she expressed gratitude for the services they received through the SDCTP. They now have a caregiver for six hours a day and regular medication management. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. M has been readmitted to the hospital since receiving SDCTP interventions.

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

### ACCESS TO INDEPENDENCE



Access to Independence (A2i) is the Independent Living Center for San Diego and Imperial Counties that serves people of all ages with disabilities to maximize their independence and fully integrate them into their communities. Access to Independence is a trailblazer and has created a new paradigm for independent living; an integrated service model driven by two areas of focus: advocacy and transition. Other programs and services provided by A2i include client assistance, peer support, employment services, and independent living. This nonprofit organization serves about 5,000 consumers and their families' annually through their programs and provides information and referral service to 11,000 more.

Access to Independence is also a formal core partner with Aging & Independence Services (AIS) in San Diego County's Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC). San Diego County's ADRC provides persons of all ages, abilities, and incomes and their caregivers and service providers with free, comprehensive information about long-term services and supports (LTSS), streamlined access to important programs, resources, services, planning and communication tools, transitions service and application assistance for entitlement programs. This welcomed partnership has enhanced both agencies' effectiveness to serve younger disabled individuals and older adults, improved their ability to make referrals to programs and services, and strengthened their assessment capabilities that has facilitated enrollment of consumers in entitlement programs. By pooling their programs, services and resources, and together with an extensive group of formal and informal extended partners, the ADRC successfully serves thousands of individuals each year!

## CCI UPDATES

- Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) Matrix - The Long Term Care Integration Project (LTCIP) developed a comprehensive tracking matrix that is documenting AIS' as well as our CCI partners' experiences related to the rollout of CCI in San Diego County. The matrix documents how many calls/contacts key stakeholders are receiving/making, what the main themes of those calls/contacts are, and what solutions the CCI Advisory Committee has identified (when possible) to address those themes. This information is gathered on a monthly basis, reported out on the California Collaborative for Long-Term Services and Supports (CCLTSS), a coalition of statewide organizations serving seniors and persons with disabilities, conference calls upon request, and posted to their Google Group.
- D-SNP Policy - The D-SNP Policy Proposal has been finalized. The ALL PLAN LETTER 14-007 dated June 26, 2014, provides guidance relating to requirements that Dual-Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs) have with the State under the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA), as amended by the Affordable Care Act of 2010. This guidance covers MIPPA-compliant contracts to D-SNPs and Fully Integrated Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (FIDE-SNPs) for 2015 and for the duration of the Duals Demonstration project, Cal MediConnect.
- Revised Cal MediConnect 90, 60 & 30 day notices & revised choice book – Since Cal MediConnect began, stakeholders have expressed concern that the 90-, 60- and 30-day Cal MediConnect notices along with the health plan choice book and choice form did not adequately communicate beneficiary choices and action steps. In response, DHCS revised and tested new enrollment materials and began sending the revised notices to beneficiaries in July and August and the revised choice book and choice forms to beneficiaries in September.
- DUALS PLAN LETTER 14-004 – Clarifies and provides guidance about continuity of care provided by the Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs) that are participating in Cal MediConnect, including that each beneficiary continues to have access to medically necessary items and services, as well as medical and long-term services and supports providers.

### TRAINING, CONTINUING EDUCATION AND THINGS TO DO



- ⊕ Webinar, Helping Seniors with Loss of Independence: Wednesday, November 12, 10am to 11am – Sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care. [Register here.](#)
- ⊕ Webinar, The California Coordinated Care Initiative, What Advocates Need to Know: Monday, December 8, 3pm to 4pm – National Senior Law Center. [Register here.](#)
- ⊕ Aging in America Conference: March 23-27 – For more information or to register, please follow [the link.](#)

