

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

SSC 2012 Policy Agenda Finalized

At our March 7 Annual Meeting, SSC members weighed in on our Policy Agenda for the coming year. This Agenda drives our scope of work and priorities and guides us as we address emerging opportunities. Our Policy Agenda is divided into two categories:

- *Priorities for Action* are policy areas that have been well-defined by our past work and for which current events call for immediate attention and focused effort. This year our priorities include Funding, Integration of Managed Care and LTSS for Duals, Food Insecurity, Housing, and Increasing Revenues/November Ballot Initiative.
- *Objectives for Policy Change* include policy areas that SSC supports, but are not part of our current scope of work. This is the part of our Policy Agenda that allows us to be ready to respond to requests for support and other opportunities. This year these objectives include Elder Economic Security, Mental Health, Support Health PAC Expansion, California CLASS Act, Transportation.

[Click here](#) to read the details in the complete 2012 Policy Agenda. In coming days SSC will inform you about developments in many of our priority areas. Today's focus is on the integration of managed care and long term services and supports for the dual eligibles...

Integration of Managed Care and Long Term Services and Supports for Dual Eligibles

Alameda County is not one of the four "Dual Integration Demonstration" counties announced by DHCS on Wednesday. What does this mean? That depends on legislative action in June.

The proposal that Department of Health Care Services released on April 4 - and will submit to Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services for approval following a 30-day comment period - seeks to launch the Dual Demonstration in ten counties in 2013. That's the four counties that current legislation permits (DHCS chose Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange and San Mateo), plus six other counties that applied for Demonstration Status (Alameda, Santa Clara, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Sacramento).

The ten-county demonstration is included in the Governor's proposed budget trailer bill as part of his Coordinated Care Initiative, a plan to extend managed care to all California Counties by 2015. The proposed phase-in anticipates the launch of the Dual Demonstration in the first ten counties as early as January 2013, dependent on California's legislature passing the budget trailer bill and CMS approving the state's plan.

While we can't be sure what the legislature or CMS will do in the short term, the writing is on the wall. In the next few years, the integration of managed care and long term services and supports for Alameda County's 47,000 dual eligibles will fundamentally change the way low-income seniors and people with disabilities receive medical and supportive services in the community. Because this change will impact community-based organizations that provide so many services to seniors who are not eligible for Medi-Cal, this will really change the system for everyone. By engaging in the process and working together, providers and consumers can define the new system (stay tuned for more on this process).

What you can do now: The period for comment on DHCS's Dual Integration Demonstration runs through 5 p.m.

May 4, 2012. [Click here](#) to view DHCS's Draft Plan and to download the comment submission form (follow the instructions to complete the form and email to DHCS).

DHCS will hold a teleconference Tuesday April 10th from 2pm - 3:30pm with stakeholders to review the demonstration proposal and take initial questions. [Click here](#) to register with DHCS for your unique call-in and pin numbers. If you need assistance registering, call 916-287-3338.

Join a Workgroup. DHCS has formed seven workgroups to develop policy recommendations for the Dual Demonstration. Workgroups will convene in a series of in person /conference call meetings currently scheduled from April through June. [Click here](#) for details (the .pdf contains links to an RSVP site).

Let me know if you have questions.

-Wendy

Check out our [ThinkSeniors Blog](#)

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