



COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUNTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

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Elderday Adult Day Health Care wins boost in Medi-Cal reimbursement for Santa Cruz, Monterey and Merced Counties

With a newly approved 10-percent boost in Medi-Cal reimbursement rates, Elderday Adult Day Health Care will be able to continue serving up to 80 frail, low-income elderly clients in Santa Cruz County each day. The program keeps participants as strong and healthy as possible so that they can remain in their own homes and out of costly hospital or skilled nursing care.

The Central California Alliance for Health, the locally governed nonprofit managed care plan that administers Medi-Cal in Santa Cruz, Monterey and Merced Counties, approved the increase last month. This increase will apply to all Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS) programs in these counties.

Elderday is one of the first CBAS programs in California to successfully campaign for an increased reimbursement rate.

“We share this victory with our hardworking team of employees who, through all the transitions, the difficult times and the uncertain times, have kept the participants engaged, served our community and ensured that we were successful with the funding we had,” said Raymon Cancino, CEO of Community Bridges, which operates Elderday and nine other human service programs in Santa Cruz County. *“While this doesn’t solve all our problems, it gives us new life and a renewed sense of hope.”*

Elderday serves frail adults who have complex medical, psychological and cognitive impairments. Two-thirds of Elderday participants are eligible for Skilled Nursing Facility care, which costs an average of \$7,000 per patient per month. In contrast, Elderday costs approximately \$1,600 per month.

Adult Day Health Centers in California have all been struggling under a greatly reduced

reimbursement rate, from \$126 per participant per day in 2012 to \$76 today, and many have closed over the last several years.

Community Bridges has been operating Elderday on a structural deficit, while working tirelessly to seek viable solutions to keep its doors open.

Since the last round of funding and regulation changes in 2012, Elderday of Santa Cruz remained as one of two surviving Adult Day Health Care centers in the tri-county area (Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties).

“The Alliance health plan appreciates the important services provided by Elderday and other Adult Day Health Care programs that help some of our most medically fragile members maintain their health and quality of life,” said Alan McKay, CEO of the Central California Alliance for health. *“We are pleased that the Alliance’s board has taken this step to support these programs.”*

The increased reimbursement rate — an additional \$8 per participant per day — helps make Elderday sustainable in Santa Cruz County, alleviating the structural deficit it was facing, and lessening the burden faced by Elderday’s dedicated employees, who accepted pay cuts, salary freezes and loss of wage differentials in order to keep the center in operation.

Elderday, located in the Harvey West area of Santa Cruz, serves the entire Santa Cruz County.

This program allows low-income, frail seniors in Santa Cruz County to remain mobile and independent, while allowing their families and care givers the ability to hold paying jobs. By preventing emergency room visits, unnecessary hospitalization and premature nursing home placement, Elderday saves tax-payers thousands every year.

In addition to Medi-Cal and other public funding, the program relies on private donations. This private philanthropic support has been crucial to see the program through fluctuations in public funding. More information about supporting Elderday is available at CommunityBridges.org.

ABOUT COMMUNITY BRIDGES

Since 1977, Community Bridges has been a catalyst for a brighter future by opening doors, offering hope and providing a hand up to the people of Santa Cruz County. Our ten programs, across 20 different sites, meet the needs of 27,000 local children, families and seniors each year. We empower seniors to live with independence and dignity, increase access to medical care and good nutrition, prevent child abuse through parent education, and work to close the academic achievement gap.