

## **California's Coordinated Care Initiative and What It Means to Seniors in Alameda County**

California is gearing up to launch the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI), a change in health policy affecting seniors and people with disabilities in eight counties, including Alameda County. Although the CCI isn't expected to launch until January 2014 at the earliest, it makes sense to be informed and proactive.

### **Who will CCI affect?**

The CCI will affect most seniors and people with disabilities who have Medi-Cal, including most people who have both Medi-Cal and Medicare. The CCI will not affect people who have just Medicare.

### **What will CCI change?**

The CCI will put Medi-Cal-covered long-term services – nursing home care, case management, in-home supportive services, and adult day health care – into Managed Care. Today Medi-Cal coverage for those services is available directly from the state. The CCI will change that, so that most people will have to be enrolled in a Managed Care Plan in order to get Medi-Cal coverage for long-term services.

Also, the CCI will offer an option to people who have both Medi-Cal and Medicare (the so-called "Duals"). The "Duals Demonstration" will combine Medicare and Medi-Cal in Managed Care Plans that coordinate health care and long-term services and supports.

Today, most consumers receive medical care from one set of providers (doctors, hospitals) and supportive services from another (home care, meals-on-wheels). Your doctor may never know that you receive meals on wheels or that you need in-home care. This fragmentation often leads to confusion, delayed or inappropriate care, and unnecessary costs. The intent of the CCI is to integrate services, financing, and care coordination, thereby improving health and lowering costs.

### **When is it proposed to begin?**

The CCI will launch no earlier January 2014. Enrollment will take place over a period of months. People with Medi-Cal will receive a notice of 60 days in advance about their enrollment options. Enrollment is "passive," meaning that if you don't make a choice, you will be automatically enrolled.

### **How can you stay informed?**

Even though this change is months away, be alert for mailings from Department of Health Care Services. Watch for information and events at your local senior center. If you have concerns about your health care coverage, contact the Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP) in Alameda County at [www.lashicap.org](http://www.lashicap.org) or 510-839-0393. To keep up with developments in Alameda County, go to [www.seniorservicescoalition.org](http://www.seniorservicescoalition.org).