

Where do we go from here? Implications of Cancelled CCI Launch in Alameda County

On November 13, 2014, the California Department of Health Care Services announced that the Coordinated Care Initiative will not move forward in Alameda County. As the state described it, this decision was made in coordination with the Department of Managed Health Care, Alameda Alliance for Health and local providers. It will allow Alameda Alliance for Health – the local nonprofit Medi-Cal Managed Care plan in our county – to focus on returning to fiscal health and transitioning out of conservatorship and back to local control.

What does this mean for Alameda County seniors and the organizations that serve them?

Some immediate questions can be answered:

- ▶ Seniors and people with disabilities who are dually eligible (Medi-Cal/Medicare) will have fewer options for affordable health and LTSS coverage in 2015. SSC has prepared a summary to help CBOs inform consumers about their options and where they can go to get help (find it on our web site at www.seniorservicescoalition.org).
- ▶ The additional resources for IHSS administration that came to Alameda County under the new state and federal maintenance of effort agreement – and that are supporting additional case workers and decreased case levels – will not be affected.
- ▶ The two Medi-Cal Managed Care plans in Alameda County, Anthem and Alameda Alliance for Health, will continue to provide Medi-Cal managed care services. They will serve the general Medi-Cal population, including Medi-Cal-only Seniors and Persons with Disabilities (SPDs), as well as those Duals who choose to have their Medi-Cal assigned to a managed care plan (either to receive CBAS coverage for ADHC or for personal preference).

How will Alameda County's exclusion from the CCI affect the likelihood that we will develop a robust system of better-coordinated long term supportive services and health care for low-income seniors and people with disabilities? Only time and the active engagement of stakeholders will provide the answer, but here are some areas to watch:

The CCI imposed certain incentives, provided some funding and moved consumers into managed care *en masse*. Without it, the Medi-Cal Managed Care plans will continue to have responsibility for covering the acute care needs of SPDs, but will not have the CCI-mandated responsibility for long term care in a skilled nursing facility. So it remains to be seen if either plan will invest in case management, referral to CBAS/Adult Day Health Care and other community supports to manage chronic disease and keep "high utilizers" stable.

Without CCI's Cal MediConnect, the most coordinated managed care for Duals will be available from the two remaining D-SNPs operating in Alameda County, Care First Total Dual Plan and

Kaiser's Senior Advantage Medi-Cal/Medicare Plan. Even though Kaiser's D-SNP is "matched" with Alameda Alliance, there is no guarantee that either D-SNP will invest in Adult Day Health Care and other community supports unless a strong business case can be made for doing so.

Without the CCI, the two MSSP providers in the county won't face the uncertainty posed by the CCI's 18 month clock ticking down to the moment when the Cal MediConnect plans become responsible for MSSP. This reprieve can allow these providers to pursue innovations, such as contracting with plans and hospitals to provide MSSP's highly effective case management services and tapping Targeted Case Management to expand the number of people served.

Even without the CCI, Alameda County is on the list (along with most California counties) to implement the state's new Health Homes for Patients with Complex Needs. This initiative is part of the Affordable Care Act, and will establish health homes to coordinate health and supportive services for categorically-needy Medi-Cal enrollees who have two or more chronic conditions or serious and persistent mental illness. A pilot is already underway in Alameda County to develop an ADHC-based health home model, and we'll be hearing more about the initiative in the near future. The HHPCN is part of the California State Innovation Model (CalSIM). To read more, go to <http://www.chhs.ca.gov/pages/pritab.aspx>

Lastly, the exclusion of our county from the CCI makes it all the more important that all stakeholders, including the Medi-Cal Managed Care plans, fully engage with the County Aging Initiative and the county-wide planning process that will be underway starting in January. The CCI helped us build relationships, cross-sector understanding and collaborations that we can continue to use to improve the system of supports and services for Alameda County seniors.