

California Community Choices Project Update (July 2008)

The California Community Choices project is a seminal five-year pilot project (September 30, 2006 ~ September 29, 2011) focused on developing California's long-term care infrastructure to increase access to home and community-based services and to help divert persons with disabilities and older adults from unnecessary institutionalization. The Choices project is supported by a \$3 million Real Choice Systems Transformation Grant awarded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to the California Health and Human Services Agency.

Progress on Three Goal Areas

1. Improved access to long-term support services: development of one-stop system

Activity: Establish two California Aging and Disability Resource Centers (CAL ADRCs) to provide a coordinated system of information, assistance and counseling for anyone seeking long-term services and supports.

Progress: Executed contracts in May 2008 with CalOptima in Orange County and Riverside County Office on Aging. ADRC Coalition meeting held June 5-6 with attendance by all ADRC programs in CA. Name Changed to Aging and Disability Resource Connection program. Project director and evaluation staff completed site visits on June 24. Organizational development activities in progress. Implementation expected October 2008.

2. Transformation of information technology to support systems change

Activity: Develop and test pilot CalCareNet, the state's aging and long-term support services website portal, at the two CAL ADRCs.

Progress: Contract awarded to Innovative Government Solutions in May 2008 to develop and implement CalCareNet. Start up activities in progress. Development activities will begin August 2008.

Activity: Commission a Data Warehouse Study to identify barriers to long-term support services data integration & a potential model data warehouse for CA.

Progress: Scope of Work development in progress.

3. Creation of a system that more effectively manages the funding for long-term supports that promote community living options

Activity: Complete a comprehensive study to improve the State's understanding of the financial & structural barriers to increasing access to home and community-based services.

Progress: Drs. Bob Mollica and Les Hendrickson completed a site visit in late June. Conference call meetings and data gathering and analysis still in progress. Select preliminary findings and recommendations drafted for stakeholder review and discussion. Final report release expected Spring 2009.