

California Community Choices Project Update (December 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 Connection (CAL ADRCs) programs to provide a coordinated system of information, assistance and counseling for anyone seeking long-term services and supports.

Progress: CAL ADRC contractors formed local advisory committees and new linkages with home and community-based organizations and key county programs. Choices project staff completed on-site readiness reviews and approved CAL ADRC operational protocols. CAL ADRCs became operational on December 1, 2008. Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order S-09-08, a stop work order was issued to CAL ADRC contractors, effective August 1, 2008. An exemption request was approved for the contractors to resume work on September 7. The result was five-week delay in project activities.

2. Transformation of information technology to support systems change

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

Progress: CalCareNet Project Charter finalized. Established a State IT workgroup and a local ADRC Workgroup to work on data transfer issues. Consumer-Focused Tools/Complementary Technology Cost Benefit Analysis Completed. Steering Committee prioritized tools/technologies for inclusion on CalCareNet and selected web portal colors. General System Design submitted to State for approval.

- Activity: Commission a Data Warehouse Study to: define what demographic data are available that describe users of long-term services and supports; identify barriers to long-term support services data integration; identify how California can access and use data to inform state policy decisions for health care, public health, preventive health and long-term services and supports; and make recommendations for establishment of a data warehouse in California.

Progress: Draft scope of work completed. Input provided by IT Subcommittee and State Department Advisory Group. Further development now on hold until January 2009 to allow greater focus on more time-sensitive project activities supporting CalCareNet and ADRC development.

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: No progress achieved during previous quarter. Pursuant to Governor's Executive Order S-09-08, a stop work order was issued to the San Diego State University Research Foundation and the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), effective 8/1/08-10/7/08. After the order was lifted, researchers Dr. Robert Mollica and Dr. Les Hendrickson were unable to resume work on the Study until December 2008. The final report is now expected to be released July 2009.