

California Community Choices Project Update (March 2009)

The California Community Choices project is a seminal five-year pilot project (9/30/06- 9/29/11) 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 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 (ADRCs) programs to provide a coordinated system of information, assistance and counseling for anyone seeking long-term services and supports (LTSS).

Progress: ADRCs implemented enhanced information and assistance, short-term service coordination, and long-term options counseling protocols; met with their advisory committees; worked with the Choices evaluator to finalize data elements to be collected and reported; and continued ongoing outreach and education to consumers and potential community partners.

2. Transformation of information technology to support systems change

Activity: Develop and implement CalCareNet, the state's aging and long-term support services website, piloting searchable service provider data from State departments and the two ADRCs in Orange and Riverside counties.

Progress: Data transfers received from state and local data sources. Inclusion/exclusion criteria for database, policy for related links, user survey and guided search questions finalized with input from CalCareNet Steering Committee. Deliverables approved – Detailed System Design and Database and Exchange, Transfer and Load (ETL) Design. Database structure and data receiver developed. Internal code review process initiated. Website content finalized.

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 LTSS data integration; identify how California can access and use demographic and cost data to inform state policy decisions for health care, public health, preventive health and LTSS; and make recommendations for establishment of a data warehouse in California.

Progress: Scope of work finalized. Researchers identified: Neil Wenger, MD, MPH, and David Zingmond, MD, PhD, University of California Los Angeles; Kate Wilber, PhD, MSW, University of Southern California. Contract development in progress. Research activities to begin May 2009.

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: Researchers Robert Mollica, EdD and Les Hendrickson, PhD, reviewed additional reports, articles and web sites for information to include in the report. California LTSS experts, Kate Wilber and Charlene, Harrington, PhD, RN, completed technical reviews of a preliminary draft. The draft report was revised based on comments from the technical reviewers.