Medi-Cal and Home Care Victories

There’s good news at the state level! The state budget raises the income eligibility level for Medi-Cal for people over 65, so that it matches the level for people under 65. Elimination of the “senior penalty” will allow seniors to get needed health care and IHSS. If you are over 65 and think you may qualify for Medi-Cal and/or IHSS, or you currently have a share of cost, we will send out information in the fall about how to find out if you can benefit. Plus, with our domestic worker coalition partners, we won funding for a study on a statewide home care benefit! Congratulations to all, and thank you to all who advocated for these changes.

SDA’s 2019 Annual Celebration!
Thursday, October 3, 5:30-8:00pm

Rueff Room, A.C.T.’s Strand Theater, 1127 Market Street, SF

This year’s theme is transformation. Together, we’re transforming housing so that it’s truly affordable, we are transforming mental healthcare, we’re transforming the way people think about aging and disability! SDA’s Annual Celebration is a time to relax with friends and celebrate our work in the community. The event includes good food and wine, a drawing, and a silent auction.

To sponsor or buy tickets: http://bit.ly/CelebrateSDA2019

So long to Tony and Ali!

On June 28th we wished a very fond farewell to Tony Robles and Ali Chiu. They have moved on to different life paths, but they are still in our hearts! Thank you both for all you have done for SDA! Below is a picture of the going away party we held for them.

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SDA will be closed Monday, September 2nd for Labor Day

Check out our website! www.sdaction.org    Find us on Facebook! info@sdaction.org
Watch Out for Medicare and Medicaid Dual-Eligible Look-Alike Plans

People who have both Medicare and Medicaid – also known as “dual eligibles” – are being targeted for a harmful Medicare Advantage plan and should watch out. These plans are called Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (D-SNP) Look-Alikes. They are not subject to the same regulations as D-SNPs and fail to coordinate Medicare and Medicaid benefits. This puts the burden on the consumer to navigate these two complicated systems and will potentially keep people from getting the care they need.

Justice in Aging has created an issue brief on these dangerous plans. To read the brief, go to: https://sdaction.org/programs/healthcare-action-team-hat/

Key points include:
- Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs) are required to contract with state Medicaid agencies and meet certain basic requirements, including having a Model of Care approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- D-SNPs are required to provide or arrange for Medicaid benefits.
- D-SNP look-alike plans do not include any of these safeguards. They typically have high premiums and deductibles and some supplemental services, but they fail to coordinate Medicare and Medicaid benefits.
- These plans confuse beneficiaries, affect care, and interfere with other plans.
- Advocacy is needed: sharing experiences, calling on CMS to regulate look-alikes.

The conclusion reads: …[I]t is important that advocates understand look-alikes and push for more information to facilitate identification of look-alikes operating in their communities. CMS must start treating these look-alike plans with disproportionately high enrollments of dual eligibles as D-SNPs and reject measures that do not serve dual eligible consumers, like passive enrollment and lock-in periods. Advocates should share with their state Medicaid agency and with CMS specific examples of the issues they see with D-SNP look-alikes and work together to develop solutions.

To share stories or get more information, contact Justice in Aging at Info@justiceinaging.org.

1st Annual
Getting There Together: A Celebration of All Ages and Abilities
at Sunday Streets Tenderloin
September 8th, 2019 | 11am – 4pm | Civic Center

The inaugural Getting There Together event is a celebration of San Francisco seniors and people with disabilities. Presented by CASE (Coalition of Agencies Serving the Elderly) in partnership with Livable City/Sunday Streets, the Department of Aging and Adult Services, Age and Disability Friendly San Francisco, and the Dignity Fund Coalition. Taking place during Sunday Streets Tenderloin in Civic Center, the 2019 Getting There Together Celebration will feature booths, a main stage and activities (including a power soccer demo by Jessica Lehman and others!).

To find out how SDA will participate, please contact Ligia at (415) 546-1333 x302
New at SDA!

FREE Computer Training Classes

- **Daily computer training classes start August 13**

All current computer skill levels are welcome. We cover everything from learning how to turn on a computer, to emailing or texting friends and family, to petitioning your local or state representatives, to downloading family pictures, to browsing the internet or using social media.

Chinese and Tagalog are available upon request.

- **How to Use Social Media to Make the City Better for You and Your Community**
  
  **Fridays, 10 am to Noon, starting August 16th**
  
  Classes will cover how to use social media programs (Facebook and Instagram) to promote causes and campaigns that affect you and your community.

Our office is scent-free. Please do not wear fragrances (perfume, cologne, etc.), in order to keep our space accessible to people with all disabilities.

For more information please call 415-546-1333

SDA is hiring!

**Senior and Disability Survival School Organizer (Full or part time available)**

Coordinate and lead classes of Senior and Disability Survival School. Survival School educates seniors and people with disabilities about available resources. This person will conduct outreach to recruit participants, engage participants, develop leadership, and involve seniors and people with disabilities in SDA’s ongoing work. This role includes 10 hours/week as Administrative Assistant, supporting the organization with clerical, administrative, and fundraising tasks.

**The Consumer Rights Community Organizer** manages the Consumer Rights for Community Living Program, which is designed to support individual seniors and people with disabilities to get health care, benefits, and other services needed to be able to stay in their homes and out of institutions. This person recruits, trains, and manages Peer Advocates to meet with people one on one, help them get their needs met, and invite people to get involved in SDA’s advocacy work. This organizer also provides workshops and trainings to community groups, sharing critical information and reaching out to community members. This organizer is responsible for meeting contract requirements. This position also includes administrative and language support, and disability trainings.

To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to jessica@sdaction.org.

Full job announcements available at www.sdaction.org.
IHSS/Medi-Cal Updates

- Medi-Cal and IHSS currently only allow individuals to have $2,000 in assets (plus a house and car), or $3,000 for couples. This amount has not been adjusted for the 30 years, making it impossible to save money for a security deposit or any emergency. A state bill proposes increasing the asset limit to $10,000 for individuals, $15,000 for couples. If you would benefit from this change, we need your story! Please contact Ligia at SDA at (415) 546-1333 or ligia@sdaction.org.

- All IHSS consumers and providers should sign up for electronic timesheets! You can do it on a computer or smartphone, or by calling a number on your phone. Sign up for online timesheets at www.etimesheets.ca.gov or for phone timesheets at (415) 557-6200. For help, please call 1-866-376-7066 or 415-557-6200.

If you get SSI you can now apply for CalFresh!

The San Francisco Human Services Agency can help you apply for CalFresh food assistance at one of their new community outstations!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Addition Senior Center</td>
<td>1390 1/2 Turk Street, SF 94115</td>
<td>(415) 921-7805</td>
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<tr>
<td>Downtown Senior Center</td>
<td>481 O'Farrell Street, SF 94102</td>
<td>(415) 202-2982</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phone (M/T/W): (415) 202-2982</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phone (TH/F): (415) 202-2983</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bayview Senior Center</td>
<td>1753 Carroll Avenue, SF 94124</td>
<td>(415) 647-5353</td>
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<tr>
<td>OMI Senior Center (Catholic Charities)</td>
<td>65 Beverly Street, SF 94132</td>
<td>(415) 334-5558</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curry Senior Center</td>
<td>315 Turk Street, SF 94102</td>
<td>(415) 920-1351</td>
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Questions?
Call: (415) 558-4700
Visit: SFHSA.org/CalFresh

Come to Senior and Disability Survival School!
Learn about the resources and benefits that are available for seniors and people with disabilities in San Francisco including transportation, community living, public health insurance, and housing.

Rosa Parks Senior Center, Dining Room
1111 Buchanan St (at Golden Gate)
August 13, 20, 27 & September 3
1:00-4:00 pm
*Cantonese & Mandarin translation will be provided*
*Free and open to the public* We will have snacks!
To RSVP, call Raia at (415) 546-1333, ext. 308 or email raia@sdaction.org.
The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Senior Operating Subsidies (SOS) on July 16th! The subsidies will apply to about 130 senior housing units in construction, making housing affordable for seniors at 15% and 25% area median income (AMI) instead of 50% AMI. The following is testimony provided by SDA member Lorraine Petty to the Board of Supervisors in support of SOS.

“I'm here to support President Yee's ordinance for the Senior Operating Subsidy program including all of his proposed amendments, ensuring it will be long-term and multi-project. 75,000 seniors are currently excluded from qualifying for city-supported new affordable housing, because of the high income standards set by the city. There is an extreme urgency to correct this inequality. Seniors, 20% of San Francisco's population now, are projected to increase by another 5% by the year 2030. That means for every year extremely low income seniors are denied help, 350 more will be excluded from new affordable housing...almost 4000 more by 2030 will face the dangers of homelessness or being trapped in non-ADA-accessible homes.

“This group has been left out of calculations, as city affordable housing income requirements and opportunities have shifted to people of higher incomes. Of course, seniors are not the only ones left out of these calculations...and we MUST accommodate everyone. But let us start with seniors...THEY ARE THE ONES WITH NO OPTIONS. So many of us on low fixed incomes are also alone and also have serious disabilities and other situations precluding employment. We cannot go out and get 3 jobs. And if we can work even one job, maybe part-time, the odds are stacked against hiring us by widespread age discrimination.

“We know it's up to the Board of Supervisors to create policy, to provide a solution for this emerging, relentlessly increasing inequality of senior access to affordable housing. Please support S.O.S. Save our seniors from this affordable housing crisis of inequality. Thank you.”

To join us in our fight for affordable housing please come to the Housing Collaborative every 3rd Wednesday of the month, 1 PM at the SDA office.

Welcome, Freddy Martin, SDA’s newest Housing Organizer!
Freddy has community organizing experience with Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Center and Housing Rights Committee and will be bringing more people into SDA's housing work, leading work in SRO hotels, and building power to win deeply affordable housing in San Francisco!

Freddy was born and raised here in SF. He grew up in Haight Ashbury and is a true “flower child.” He has always loved creative and performing arts and calls himself a real drama king, perfect for activism! TNDC, HRCSF, and NAHT trained Freddy in community organizing and taught him to activate, empower, and walk side by side for justice with SF tenants. He loves his family, partner, community, dogs, walks in nature, good performances, and working with teams to reach goals and strengthen equity through access. He says: “I’m excited to be part of the SDA community and team! We will do great work together and reach, support, and empower our senior and disabled communities to action in the city!”
My Experience at Disability and Aging Capitol Action Day
By Rebecca Muller

I have always been interested in activism – it is one of the first things that appealed to me about Senior and Disability Action. It is because of this that the spring trip to Sacramento for Disability and Aging Capitol Action Day that Senior and Disability Action took in order to interact and learn about other organizations was so important.

Not only did we meet other people, learn about other organizations and hear other speakers, but we also spoke – sometimes in the office of local representatives with whom we had spoken before – about amendments that are of great importance for the senior and disability community. Although some people may think that the ADA is enough to provide assistance, it is vital to remind people not only in Washington, D.C., but locally as well that we each have our own voices and personal stories of struggle and success.

In the past I had participated in peaceful protest, including as an ally at a gay rights protest through my college, a small liberal arts college with a significant LGBT population. Unlike the large public high school I had attended, at my college I felt that there was much more awareness and acceptance of disabilities. My LGBT friends and even professors on campus told me they felt the same way about their sexual orientation when choosing the school.

I realized then the importance of learning outside my actual courses as well as during class.

Similarly, I felt the importance of the being in the Capitol in May in order to convey the necessary message not only to lawmakers but to Californians and others nationwide. Our disabilities and/or status as seniors are one aspect of who we are, but we live every day as people who want to lead active and meaningful lives, and with events like this, we will never give up the fight to do so.
### Community Calendar: Aug/Sept. 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>TIME &amp; PLACE</th>
<th>MORE INFO?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon-Fri</td>
<td>Computer Open Lab and Beginning Computer Classes</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:00 PM 1360 Mission Street Suite 400 Classes Tues/Weds. 9:30-2</td>
<td>Pi Ra 415-546-2096</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Thursday August 1st September 5th</td>
<td>IHSS Task Force Meeting</td>
<td>10:30 AM 1360 Mission St. #400</td>
<td>Jessica Lehman 415-546-1333 x301</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Thursday August 1st September 5th</td>
<td>SDA Board Meeting</td>
<td>3:00-5:00 PM 1360 Mission St. #400</td>
<td>Jessica Lehman 415-546-1333 x301</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Thursday September 12th (no Aug. meeting)</td>
<td>SDA General Meeting</td>
<td>10:00 AM 1187 Franklin Street</td>
<td>SDA 415-546-1333</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Thursday August 8th September 12th</td>
<td>CARA meeting</td>
<td>1 PM 1187 Franklin Street</td>
<td>Jodi Reid 415-550-0828</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Tuesday August 13th September 10th</td>
<td>HealthCare Action Team (HAT) Meeting</td>
<td>11 AM ILRC, 825 Howard</td>
<td>Ligia Montano 415-546-1333 x302</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Wednesday August 21st September 18th</td>
<td>SDA Housing Collaborative</td>
<td>1-3 PM 1360 Mission Street, #400</td>
<td>Theresa Flandrich 415-546-1333 x304</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Friday August 16th September 20th</td>
<td>Mayor’s Disability Council</td>
<td>1-4 PM City Hall Room 400</td>
<td>Mayor’s Office on Disability 415-554-6789</td>
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Instead of the August General Meeting, we will host a movie on **Friday, August 9th at 2 PM.**

Join us for “Priced Out,” popcorn and a great conversation with the Joseph Smooke, the filmmaker!

**Please RSVP to Jessica at (415) 546-1333 ext 301**

General Meeting will resume on **Thursday, September 12th!**

SDA's office and all meeting and event locations are wheelchair-accessible. We are scent-free, so please remember not to wear perfumes, scented lotions or detergents, etc. If you need ASL interpretation or any other accommodation for a meeting, please contact us as soon as possible.
Senior and Disability Action News is produced by SDA Staff and volunteers.

We would like to hear from you! Send information and commentary to info@sdaction.org or call (415) 546-1333.