



N e w s l e t t e r

All-ASC Meeting & Presentation Dates

The full ASC will continue to meet once every two months. Beginning with the meeting that occurred September 23rd, the Best Practices Team will arrange for presentations to occur at each meeting. All meetings are held from 2:00 to 4:00pm at:

Sobrato Center - Cupertino B Room
1400 Parkmoor Ave, San Jose

- **November 4, 2009**

Aging in Place Model Programs in the Bay Area

Across the US, there are now over 30 programs modeled after the innovative Beacon Hill Villages in Boston. Come hear about two such programs in our own neighborhood - ***Avenidas Village*** and the ***San Francisco Village***. These consumer-driven membership organizations connect older adults with a variety of services that empower them to live safe, healthy and productive lives independently in the community.

Presenters: Lisa Hendrickson, CEO Avenidas
Susan Poor, Consultant SF Village

- **January 13, 2010**

Programs for Diverse Populations

- **March 10, 2010**

Aging in Place: Housing Models

- **May 12, 2010**

ASC Recognition Event

- **July 14, 2010**

Elder Abuse and Prevention Panel

Events

- **Senior Housing Solutions** is celebrating the opening of the Anne Way Senior Residence on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 from 11:30am to 1:00pm. The program will begin at noon and a light lunch will be served. For more info visit www.srhousingsolutions.org.

- The US Department of Health and Human Services is hosting **webcast discussions on H1N1 Preparedness** for the Aging Network. This free webcast is for organizations and individuals who work with seniors. The archived webcast can be played at anytime by visiting <http://www.flu.gov/news/knowwhattodo.html>.

- **ASC Brown Bag Presentation**

Thursday, October 29, 2009, 11:30am to 1:00pm
Aging Demographics: The current realities and future challenges in Santa Clara County

Sobrato Center - Cupertino A Room
1400 Parkmoor Ave, San Jose

Presented by Elna R. Tymes and Amy Marseline

Want to get involved or attend ASC events?

Contact Amy Aken at 408.559.9385 or
AmyA@healthtrust.org

Welcome our new member!

Beth Ackerman joins the ASC team, hailing from Buffalo, Wyoming where she recently completed an Americorps Vista program with Habitat for Humanity.

Originally from Vienna, VA, Beth recently graduated from James Madison University in May. She now works for **Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley** as the Americorps Outreach and Client Coordinator.

Over the next 11 months Beth will work closely with the San Jose community leaders and residents to increase the amount of lives that Rebuilding Together can impact.

Other Events

- **Caregivers Count!**

Saturday, November 14, 2009, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Location-- Sobrato Center - Cupertino Rooms
1400 Parkmoor Ave.
San Jose, CA 95126

Conference info--

The ASC is hosting *Caregivers Count!*, a free full-day conference designed especially for informal and family caregivers caring for an aging loved one. This conference will offer support and share important resources.

Presentation topics--

- *Self Care: Taking Care of YOU*
- *Dementia Communication*
- *Relaxation Techniques*
- *HICAP: Medicare and MediCal*
- *Caregiver Stories of Hardship, Healing and Hope*

Other goodies--

Real-time translation will be offered in Spanish.

Conveniently located near public transit routes.

Click here for [English](#) and [Spanish](#) flyers.

Registration info--

Space is limited and this conference is expected to be sold out! **Attendance registration is required.**

Register by visiting--

<http://www.healthtrust.org/caregiverscount>

- **Pathways Through the Holidays Workshops**

support and guide those who are grieving and on what to expect while coping during the holidays. Workshops will occur the following days and at the following locations:

- **October 27, 2009, 6:30-8:30 pm**
585 N. Mary Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA
- **October 28, 2009, 6:30-8:30 pm**
333 Hegenberger Road, Suite 700, Oakland, CA
- **October 29, 2009, 6:30-8:30 pm**
395 Oyster Point Blvd. #128, South San Francisco, CA

RSVP's are encouraged to 888.905.2800 ext. 4241 or e-mail bereavement@pathwayshealth.org or visit <http://www.pathwayshealth.org/>

Funding Opportunities

- **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program**

Request for Proposals (RFP) are being accepted for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for Northern Santa Clara County. The RFP application and other documents have been posted on the ASC website and can be found by [clicking here](#). The RFP deadline is November 9, 2009 and there will be an informational conference call on October 8, 2009. For more information or to participate in the informational conference call, please contact Walter Earnest at 510-637-1751 or wearnest@cns.gov.

- **Foster Grandparent Program**

Request for Proposals (RFP) are also being accepted for the Foster Grandparent Program for Santa Clara County. The RFP application and other documents have been posted on the ASC website and can be found by [clicking here](#). The RFP deadline is November 9, 2009 and there will be an informational conference call on October 8, 2009. For more information or to participate in the informational conference call, please contact Walter Earnest at 510-637-1751 or wearnest@cns.gov.

Team Progress Reports

The ASC needs YOU! The Teams are on their way to planning amazing events and strategies to provide leadership and build community-wide capacity to support and promote the well-being of older adults. If YOU would like to get involved in this exciting movement, email us today to join!

Best Practices Team

The Best Practices Team, led by Co-Chairs Mary Anne Mendall and Nancy Hikoyeda, has been working to "research, recommend, and promote evidence-based programs that inform the enhancement or expansion of Santa Clara County resources for older adults and their caregivers."

The team will:

- Identify and learn about best practices locally and from around the country
- Share best practices at ASC general meetings
- Compile a compendium of best practices for use by collaborative members
- Recommend best practices for possible local consideration and implementation

Team Progress Reports *(continued from page 2)*

At the September All-ASC meeting team co-chairs presented on "Evidence-Based Best Practices: What, Why, and How". The importance of evidence-based best practices for clients, providers, and funders was highlighted.

Future presenters will discuss Bay Area best practices; programs for diverse populations; aging in place and housing models. Other suggestions are welcome.

Caregiver Support Team

The Caregiver Support Team is working on two projects.

The "Inventory Group" is working with staff from 2-1-1 and the Council on Aging (COA) to determine how referrals are made and what information is given to callers. They are also building the content for the caregiver page of COA's website.

A second caregiver group is planning a free full-day conference on November 14th for family caregivers called **Caregivers Count**. Members have approached various agencies for sponsorship opportunities.

Donations for raffle prizes for attendees would be greatly appreciated from members of the Collaborative.

Outreach and Education Team

Candace Bates, a member of the Education and Outreach team, volunteered to draft a letter to accompany the Council on Aging's Senior Handbooks to 30 Santa Clara County libraries. They are also researching additional organizations for distribution points.

The **Positive Aging Film Festival** will be in 2010, to be determined if under the umbrella of Cinequest Film Festival's 20th anniversary celebration or a separate event. Cinequest staff are researching options, while the team is researching appropriate films and gathering a list of volunteers to include older adults as well. Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact Vivian Silva @ 408-279-5833.

Future projects include creating marketing materials made available at events and creating an older adult speaker's bureau to promote positive aging in the community (ex: outreach in the high schools).

Networking and Communication Team

The NetCom Team collaborated with the Best Practices Team to develop a series of brown bag sessions for professional development of ASC members. The first session (see page 1) has been scheduled for October 29, 2009 from 11:30am to 1pm at the Sobrato Center. The topic is *Aging Demographics: The current realities and future challenges in Santa Clara County*.

The Team is discussing strategies for building the aging network through collaborating with other relevant networks throughout Santa Clara County. It is also working toward engaging elected officials and assisting them with the promotion of resources and services available to older adults.

The NetCom Team has decided to merge with the Education and Outreach Team due to lower member participation and because both work plans shared a great deal of overlap.

The newly merged Team's next meeting:

- October 21, 2009 from 9 am - 10:30 am at The Health Trust (2105 S. Bascom Ave. #220, Campbell)

All interested and committed individuals are encouraged and welcome to join the teams.

IHSS Appeal Process

Background

On July 24th, Sacramento legislators passed an amended State budget to fill California's \$24 billion dollar deficit. When the Governor signed the budget on July 28th, he further deepened cuts to the IHSS program and also eliminated an additional \$9.4 million from the budget of public authorities.

What are the changes?

Functional Index Scores

The hour reductions in the budget deal are based on consumer Functional Index scores. The Functional Index (FI) is used by social workers to determine the hours of care an IHSS recipient receives. The Index is based on a scale of 1-5 with a "1" meaning that services are not necessary and a "5" indicating the greatest need of assistance.

Under the new budget changes, recipients with an average FI score below 2 will lose all services. There

IHSS Appeal Process *(continued from page 3)*

were exceptions written into the budget for those who need protective supervision or receive paramedical services.

The budget changes also eliminate domestic and related services hours for consumers with an FI rank below 4 for the particular domestic or related service in question. Domestic and related services include duties such as housework, shopping, and meal preparation.

Share of Cost

In addition to cutting some IHSS hours, the State is also eliminating the Share of Cost buyout program. In the past, the State has been paying the difference between the IHSS share of cost and the MediCal share of cost for those individuals who, based on their income, had to pay a share of cost toward receiving IHSS. As of October 1, 2009, the State has stopped paying this amount. Providers generally collect the share of cost amount directly from recipients and when this law became effective on October 1, the amount was expected to increase for those individuals who previously received this "buy out."

Anti-Fraud Measures

Part of the new state budget includes anti-fraud measures for the IHSS Program. This includes following:

- **Background checks for providers** – Current IHSS providers will need to have a criminal background check by July 1, 2010. Background checks for new providers will start by October 1, 2009. Individuals who have a history of Medicare and Medicaid fraud, elder abuse or child abuse would not be eligible to be a care provider.
- **Fingerprinting for Recipients** – New IHSS recipients will have to be fingerprinted for identity purposes starting April 1, 2010. Current recipients will be fingerprinted at their next reassessment.
- **Provider Orientation Information** – A provider orientation must be given to current providers between November 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010. Providers will also be required to sign a form stating that they understand the rules of the program and the consequences of not following them.
- **Timesheets** – Providers and recipients will now have to sign a statement on timesheets certifying that the timesheet is correct. By July 1, 2011 the timesheet

will include a space for a fingerprint of both the provider and the recipient. Anyone convicted of fraud because of timesheet misrepresentation will face a fine of \$500 to \$1,000 for each violation in addition to criminal penalties.

- **Home Visits** – Monitoring the program for integrity may include unannounced home visits.
- **PO Boxes** – Paychecks will be prohibited from being mailed to post office boxes unless the County approves a request that includes an explanation of why the PO Box is appropriate or necessary.

When will these cuts take effect?

Cuts to the IHSS program were originally scheduled to take place on September 1, 2009, then moved to October 1. However, due to the complexity of sending Notices of Action to all IHSS consumers impacted, this date has been pushed back once again. The State has announced that the cuts will take effect November 1, 2009, with notices being mailed October 19, 2009.

What can be done?

IHSS recipients have the right to appeal cuts to their home care services when they receive a Notice of Action indicating a reduction. If they call and request an appeal within 10 days from the date the reduction is to take effect, their current hours may be retained until their hearing takes place. This is called "aid paid pending."

In order to receive "aid paid pending", they must call the toll-free number 1-800-952-5253 on the back of their Notice of Action. The Santa Clara County Department of Aging and Adult Services will also be sending out letters to IHSS recipients who may lose hours to remind them of their appeal rights.

This information was collected in part through the California United Homecare Workers website www.cuhw.org.

Want to include something else in the next newsletter? Send an email to AmyA@healthtrust.org