July 14, 2011

To the Members of the California State Legislature:

I am writing about the elimination of the Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) benefit pursuant to AB 97 (Chapter 3, Statutes of 2011) and our on-going planning to transition ADHC participants to other meaningful services and supports that avoid a potential risk of institutionalization.

California has a longstanding and strong commitment to help seniors and persons with disabilities and extensive medical needs remain independent, vital members of the community without the need for institutionalization. Based on the elimination of this benefit, we have already begun to transition these individuals to other services in a manner that is reflective of this commitment.

Pursuant to existing administrative authority, the Department of Health Care Services has the flexibility to extend the ADHC benefit to ensure a smooth, seamless, and successful transition of former ADHC beneficiaries to other services.

Accordingly, I am extending the ADHC benefit beyond September 1, 2011, for a time-limited basis and based on anticipated federal financial participation, to allow the beneficiaries to continue to live independently, avoid a potential risk of institutionalization, and ensure a smooth transition to other services when the benefit is eliminated. I will continue to assess the need to extend the benefit on a month-to-month basis as the transition progresses. I will keep the legislature informed on our continuing progress.

Sincerely,

Toby Douglas
Director