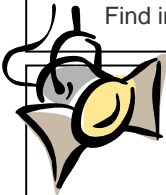


A quarterly newsletter from the California Linkages Site Association

Preventing unnecessary institutionalization for frail seniors and disabled adults through care management

Find information about the Linkages Program at: <http://www.aging.ca.gov/html/programs/linkages.html> or www.c4a.info



On Success... From Passages Chico CA

"Sally" is a 50 year old married woman who lives with her husband. Sally has Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and experiences chronic pain. Sally is dependent for assistance with transferring and is incontinent. Sally and her husband have limited financial resources and do not have Medicare or Medi-Cal, although they do have private insurance through her husband's employment. He has stopped working in order to be Sally's caregiver, contributing to the financial stress. Sally has needed home modification and medical equipment that is not covered through private insurance and this has negatively impacted their financial situation. When Linkages became involved with Sally and her husband the couple was very overwhelmed and Sally was at high risk for injuring herself or being institutionalized. Although the couple had limited financial resources, the Linkages care manager was creative in developing a successful care plan for the client and her husband.

The care manager accessed donated community resources, for example a bed rail, and effectively used Linkages funds to provide Sally with the necessary provisions she needed to stay in her home, including an emergency response system and superpoles to allow safe transferring. The care manager also collaborated with another agency program, Mountain Caregiver Resource Center (MCRC), to address

the risk of caregiver burnout, which provided the client homemaker services for respite. MCRC also provided assistance to Sally's husband with accessing the legal services necessary to begin the process of Sally applying for Medi-Cal and admission to the In Home Operations Waiver.

As Linkages was able to coordinate services to reduce the client's stress, the client became increasingly motivated to be involved in her care plan. Feeling empowered, Sally was able to obtain a badly needed new power wheelchair through her insurance and obtained other needed equipment from a relative with Multiple Sclerosis who had passed away. As Sally was functioning better at home, her husband was able to return to work part-time. The creative and collaborative efforts of the Linkages care manager allowed this client to increase functioning and remain living safely in her own home.

Economic Stimulus Payment!

Many Linkages' clients may be eligible for the economic stimulus payment from the federal government, but need to file a 2007 tax return to receive it.

Clients have to file a 2007 IRS Form 1040 or Form 1040A and report at least \$3,000 in qualifying income on Line 20a of Form 1040 or on Line 14a of Form 1040A and write the words "Stimulus Payment" across the top of the form. Qualifying income includes Social Security, Railroad Retirement or Veterans' benefits. Clients should have received 1099 forms stating a summary of their benefits. SSI *does not* count as qualifying income.

Clients are still eligible even if they do meet the filing deadline, although with or without a tax-filing extension, their payment will be delayed. To insure that clients get their payment, file by Oct. 15th.

For more information, to access tax forms or to locate free tax preparation assistance for your area call the IRS at (800) 829-1040 or visit their website at www.irs.gov.

NECESSITY, the mother of invention...

HELPING CLIENTS ACCESS SUPPORT and SERVICES

California Telephone Access Program (CTAP)

CTAP provides free, specialized telephone equipment to individuals who who are certified as disabled in one or more of the following areas: hearing, vision, mobility, cognition or speech.

Equipment provided includes amplifiers, Braille TTYs (text telephone), fax machines, headsets and speakerphones for hands free calls, ring signal devices, speech and hearing amplifiers, switches, specialized telephones including large button phones or phones with memory and speed dialing.

A newer option is the **Emergency Bracelet with Auto Dialing Telephone (CSC50 ER)** which functions like an emergency response system (the client needs to be certified in mobility *and* either hearing, speech or vision). If you have a Linkages client who may benefit from these services call CTAP at (800) 806-1191 or visit their website at www.ddtp.org/CTAP for more information or to obtain an application.

