

# Aging in San Diego

The Area Agency on Aging Monthly Bulletin

Daniel L. Laver, Director

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## AIDS Care Expands

The Area Agency on Aging has long been recognized as an expert in senior services and long term care. The Long Term Care division of the agency had developed a solid base of professional case management knowledge and been an advocate for home and community based services for many years. It was because of this expertise and community involvement that the agency was awarded another case management program — AIDS Waiver Program (AWP) in 1989.

The AIDS Waiver Program has grown over the years to meet the needs of the community. Currently AWP provides case management to approximately 270 clients. These clients must be Medi-Cal eligible and be at a nursing facility level of care to receive case management services through AWP. In the past, if these Clients have lost Medi-Cal eligibility or improved their functional level they were automatically disenrolled and lost their continuity of care.

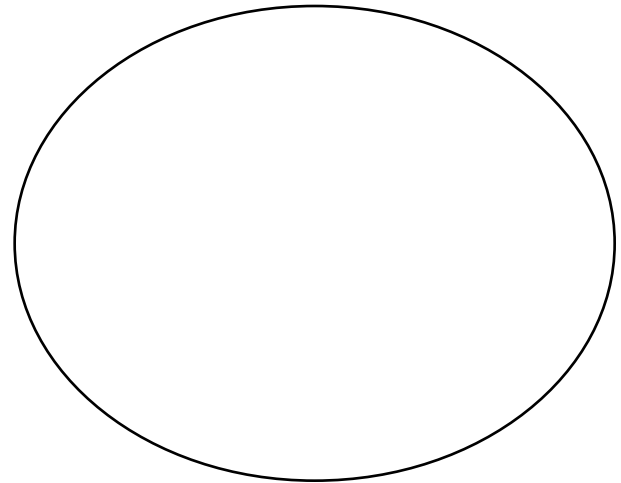
Recognizing the need to better serve these clients the Area Agency on Aging applied for case management funds through the California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS, and The Title I Ryan White CARE Act. These funds were awarded to the Area Agency on Aging and will allow for an additional case management team of a Public Health Nurse and a Social Worker.

Now AWP clients will not have to be disenrolled when they lose Medi-Cal eligibility or their functional level improves. Instead, they will transfer to one of the new programs and be able to retain the same nurse case manager and continue to receive assistance throughout the course of their illness. The consistency of care will help clients remain well longer and at home in the community.

For information on these programs or any of the case management programs in the Area Agency on Aging, call Centralized Intake at 495-5216. ♠

## Senior Helper

By Alice Berwer, Elderhelp



When I first met Lovedy Gilbert in 1990, I found her sitting in her wheelchair addressing a stack of cards. When I asked her about the greeting cards, she commented that they were being sent to AIDS patients to give them some moral support. I knew there was a much bigger story behind how this simple act of kindness began.

Lovedy is in her mid 80's and a mother of 5 children; three are still living. About 12 years ago she and two other church members wanted to assist a population, whose need at the time, was not getting much attention. Together they founded "Concerned Citizens for AIDS Patients." At first Lovedy was able to go to the church office, but after being confined to her wheelchair, she took her work home. Today she still gathers information and ideas for greetings. When the handmade cards are complete, Lovedy folds the cards and continues to mail out almost 50 cards each week! From the reports that have come back, her work is very valuable.

Lovedy is able to remain at home by having a homemaker through the Area Agency on Aging who assists her several times a week. She also has used the services of ElderHelp and met her present housemate and live in chore helper through their Home Share Connection. With her present arrangement, Lovedy is able to do the thing that is dearest to her heart. ♠