



# *SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER*

*April 2014*

## **Support Group for Dialysis Patients**

The support Group has moved to the Desert Community Bank on the corner of Silica and Hesperia Rd. It continues to meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

This Month meetings are April 8<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Free Phones!**

Free home phones will be available on April 8 and April 9 in the center Lobby. They are modified phones for persons with disabilities. They are provided by California Telephone Access Program to ensure all persons are able to use a telephone. They are provided with a Doctor's prescription. This event is for High Desert Nephrology and Desert Cities Dialysis patients.

## **Medi-Medi (CalDuals) Enrollment in Medi-Cal HMO**

Social workers are receiving updates on the movement for all persons with Medi-Medi to sign up with an HMO. Notices have been stating that this will take place starting May 2014. Please see your social worker if you have received notices about signing up with a Medi-cal HMO. These notices come from Department of Health Care Services.

**Still Looking for Supportive Peers**  
**Desert Cities Dialysis** is looking for experienced dialysis patients that would like to make a difference in a peer's life. Who knows better than you what it feels like to start dialysis for the first time, and the challenges of adjusting to a life on dialysis. **We believe that you can help in a way that only someone that has been there can help.** Please see a

social worker if you are interested in this new position. Being of service to others not only helps the new dialysis patient but helps you too!!

## **Safety Net Grants**

American Kidney Fund has reopened their grant to assist patients with dialysis related expenses. Limit of \$100 per year per patient. Talk to your social worker about applying for assistance paying for medications, transportation, or other health related expenses.

## **California Paid Leave**

If you have a loved one you must leave your work to care for, California has a program that can help to pay you through this time. The benefit is based on past earnings. There is a 7 day unpaid waiting period and then pay for approximately 55% of your previous salary during the leave you care for your loved one. Typically this is used in conjunction with FMLA. Brochures and applications are available from your social worker. You can find out more by visiting [www.edd.ca.gov/disability](http://www.edd.ca.gov/disability) or calling (877) 238-4373.

## **FMLA**

This is the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). If you or a loved one must leave work either for medical reasons or to care for a loved one, it offers up to 12 weeks of job protection. Often used in conjunction with California Paid Leave or State Disability. Typically used by family to assist dialysis patients during a time of need. Talk with your social workers for more information.



### In Home Care

Needing assistance at home? There are 3 options for home care depending on your income.

**First**, for persons with **Medi-Cal** there is In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) which can be applied for by calling (877) 800-4544. This county paid services allows either a person you know to get paid for assisting you OR you can choose from certified IHSS workers. The amount of hours per month allowed is based on your need for care.

**Secondly**, if your income is too high for Medi-Cal then **Privately paid** care is available. Typically it runs from \$22 to \$26 per hour.

**Lastly**, if you are a disabled veteran then you could qualify for **VA aid and attendance** benefit. Talk to your VA social worker about whether you qualify and how to apply.

### Advanced Arrangements

While almost none of us are comfortable with the idea of being incapacitated or even of dying, unfortunately it is an inevitable part of life. So many times friends and family are caught in a situation where they are not sure of their loved one's wishes.

We urge you to spare your friends and loved ones the burden and ensure that your wants are carried out in the event you cannot choose, so:

- 1) Please complete your Advanced Directives
- 2) Please complete your final arrangements.

There are inexpensive, even free ways to prepare as long as it is done in advance! Please talk to your social workers about options for you.

### Amethyst Unit Update

For all those waiting to transfer to Amethyst, the wait is nearly over. The Final State Certification is on the way, soon the doors will be open. Make sure and put your name on the list if you want to transfer to our new unit. The new unit is near the corner of Amethyst and Bear Valley Rd.

As patients transfer to our new unit, the Victorville 4<sup>th</sup> shift will be moved to earlier chairs. If you are in a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> shift chair and wish to remain there, you will not be moved. However, be prepared, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> shift will be moved to earlier times.

### Check Out Our Website

Previous issues of the Social work newsletter, upcoming events, information on your health care team and Desert Cities Dialysis unit news. Go to: [www.desertcitiesdialysis.com](http://www.desertcitiesdialysis.com)

### Humor

