In the first six months of 2023 SteppingStone fully returned to pre-COVID levels of attendance at our four adult day health care centers. This means we are averaging over 200 program participants served daily and a total client population of over 300. The vast majority of participants are served in their centers, but some receive emergency remote services because they simply can’t attend, mostly for health and transportation reasons.

The makeup of the participant population has changed since before COVID. Though many clients from before 2020 continue to attend, some do not. Many new clients have enrolled from referral sources and through SteppingStone’s successful Outreach Program. Outreach efforts generated over 100 new enrollments in the last several months and are continuing. Our efforts to reach underserved populations, including formerly homeless San Franciscans living in single room occupancy (SROs) units, has been effective. We are convinced adult day health care will help these clients maintain their health and remain housed.

One underserved population according to the most recent Dignity Fund Community Needs Assessment is the LGBTQ+ community. Now in its sixth year SteppingStone’s LGBTQ+ program continues to grow and enrollment is now approaching twenty participants. The program remains the only LGBTQ+ specific program within an adult day health care setting in California. In this report you will see photos of the LGBTQ+ program celebrating Pride Month. It was a joyous event with many activities at our Mission Creek Center. I am looking forward to LGBTQ+ Program Director Andrew Calabrese’s plans for the rest of the year as he continues to increase participation and enhance engaging activities in the program.

As all Centers returned to higher levels of attendance, activities increased as well. All new clients have individualized care plans and ongoing participants need to be reassessed every six months. The multidisciplinary team of clinicians need to not only implement these plans but also monitor clients closely for any changes in their health. Activities Coordinators at each Center are again planning recreational and social activities for full center attendance, as are the kitchen staff overseeing food service. Near capacity attendance means that all aspects of the ADHC program at each Center need to be running smoothly from the moment clients arrive until they depart five hours later. Fortunately, we have an experienced and dedicated staff that has been eager to return to full attendance at their centers.
SteppingStone's Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center, now in its second year, is growing. The Center has over 20 participants and plans to add more. Program Director Madeleine Barry and her staff provide enhanced care to participants with varying levels of dementia to allow them to benefit from the adult day health program. The Alzheimer's program is based at the Mission Creek Center and offers services four days a week.

SteppingStone still faces challenges both agencywide and at individual centers. COVID has not gone away, and we maintain our safety measures including masking, testing, and screening at all Centers. Labor shortages, particularly in the health care sector, are a concern. We offer competitive compensation packages, but even so it can be difficult to fill staff positions as quickly as we would like. Street safety challenges remain, particularly for our two centers in the Tenderloin, and we persist to advocate for an appropriate response to this problem from the city of San Francisco.

Our overall advocacy efforts remain vigorous at both the state and city levels. I am in my third year as the Board President of the California Association for Adult Day Services (CAADS) and fourth as co-chair of the San Francisco Coalition of Agencies Serving the Elderly (CASE). In both roles I meet regularly with our government partners to bring them information from participating member agencies and advocate for the needs of the people we serve.

**Launch of Enhanced Care Management Program**

The largest change this year will undoubtedly be our launch of the Enhanced Care Management Program (ECM) through a new contract with the San Francisco Health Plan. This is not an adult day health care program, and it is not congregate care. However, ECM does complement ADHC, and will serve not only current clients, but also other community members who are in critical need of comprehensive care coordination.

The ECM program will evaluate referrals and create a plan of care for those who are enrolled. The team of lead case managers, community health...
In April SteppingStone celebrated its 40th anniversary with a dinner, party, and awards ceremony. The agency was founded in 1983 in the backroom of the North of Market Senior Center, now the Curry Senior Center. Over the next four decades SteppingStone has grown to be the largest provider of adult day health care in San Francisco, always remembering where we began and the people we serve.

The agency’s success is due, most of all, to a passionate and dedicated staff leading the agency and serving program participants. Therefore, at the 40th anniversary celebration, long term staff were honored including former Executive Directors Elizabeth Boardman and Moli Steinert who spoke at the event. Several staff members who worked for the agency for twenty years of more were also honored. These were: Karen Ande, Physical Therapist at SteppingStone’s Presentation Day Health for 20 years; Mei Chen, Activity Coordinator at Mabini Day Health for 27 years; Nicole Clause, Program Director at Presentation Day Health for 22 years; Rosanna Liu, Rehabilitation Aide at Mabini Day Health for 22 years; Amy Rong, Program Aide at Presentation Day Health for 20 years; Wil Tayo, Licensed Vocation Nurse at Mabini Day Health for 20 years; and John Tinloy, former Social Worker, Program Director, Interim Executive Director with SteppingStone 30 years.

40th Anniversary Celebration

In April SteppingStone celebrated its 40th anniversary with a dinner, party, and awards ceremony. The agency was founded in 1983 in the backroom of the North of Market Senior Center, now the Curry Senior Center. Over the next four decades SteppingStone has grown to be the largest provider of adult day health care in San Francisco, always remembering where we began and the people we serve.

The agency’s success is due, most of all, to a passionate and dedicated staff leading the agency and serving program participants. Therefore, at the 40th anniversary celebration, long term staff were honored including former Executive Directors Elizabeth Boardman and Moli Steinert who spoke at the event. Several staff members who worked for the agency for twenty years of more were also honored. These were: Karen Ande, Physical Therapist at SteppingStone’s Presentation Day Health for 20 years; Mei Chen, Activity Coordinator at Mabini Day Health for 27 years; Nicole Clause, Program Director at Presentation Day Health for 22 years; Rosanna Liu, Rehabilitation Aide at Mabini Day Health for 22 years; Amy Rong, Program Aide at Presentation Day Health for 20 years; Wil Tayo, Licensed Vocation Nurse at Mabini Day Health for 20 years; and John Tinloy, former Social Worker, Program Director, Interim Executive Director with SteppingStone 30 years.

Jonathan Beavis, MPH, is the ECM Program Director, transferring over from his role as the Director of Outreach for SteppingStone. Staff have been hired and the program is underway as of July 1, 2023. More staff will be retained, and the program offices will open in the next few months.

40th Anniversary Celebration honorees and longtime staff members, Wil Tayo and Mei Chen at the event.

Mabini Center participant playing the drums during a Music Therapy Group held by Erin Gaines, MT-BC.

SteppingStone board member Maelin Wang with former staff members Chit Lee Chong, Elizabeth Boardman and Elizabeth’s wife Barbara Tye at 40th Anniversary celebration.
As SteppingStone carries on its mission to help older adults and people with disabilities retain their health and independence many things have changed since 1983. But our commitment remains firm as we continue our work and help many of our fellow San Franciscans through our adult day health care centers and enhanced care management programs. I will report on these activities through our monthly electronic newsletters and the printed year-end report.