HEALTH

Alzheimer's nonprofit merging with adult day care nonprofit

By Courtney Perkes
cperkes@scng.com
cperkes on Twitter

Alzheimer's Orange County and Acacia Adult Day Services announced Thursday that they are merging to provide more direct care to aging residents.

Alzheimer's Orange County, formerly the Alzheimer's Association, Orange County chapter, broke away from the national group in 2015 to keep local control over spending and services. It since has started providing day care services, which gives caregivers a break and allows elderly family members to remain at home.

Acacia, which is also a nonprofit, provides day programs and services such as dementia care and transportation to and from its Garden Grove facility. Each group will continue to operate under its own name, and the merger will be completed by July 1.

"We saw it as a natural extension, where we touch people's lives directly," said Jim McAleer, CEO of Alzheimer's Orange County.

"How do we support those families at a more personal level? You take care of them personally."

Last year, Alzheimer's Orange County took over operations of South County Adult Day Services in Laguna Woods.

McAleer said Acacia can provide expertise in billing and adult day services while his group has a robust fundraising arm and will run support groups at Acacia.

"We're both very excited about it," he said. "We think it's going to help us all."