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STANISLAUS COUNTY IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

02/25/05

Committee Members Present:

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Jose Acosta | Madelyn Amaral | Dwight Bateman |
| Kenny Brown | Rose Martin | Connie Muller |
| Ora Scruggs | George Sharp | Linda White |

Committee Members Absent:

IHSS Staff Present:

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Jeff Lambaren | Maria Childers | Robert Taylor |
| Veronica Melgoza | | |

**Advance notice given.*

OPENING REMARKS by Kenny Brown

- Meeting called to order at 1:10

PUBLIC COMMENT

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- February 11, 2005 minutes: Motion M/S/A to accept minutes.
- Minutes were reviewed by members and motion to accept with correction of spelling of Jeff Lambaren's name. Connie Muller made the motion to accept and Madelyn Amaral seconded the motion.

PUBLIC AUTHORITY

- Jeff announced that of the 4 items that went to the Board for Public Authority, one of the items were requested to be pulled due to lack of support. The item pulled was the letter opposing Governor's wage cuts.



- Madelyn Amaral stated that everyone should write a letter of their own, regarding their experiences.
- Committee agreed to send a letter to the Governor, Tom Campbell, and include the state and local representatives.
- Dwight Bateman stated that he wanted it to be noted that he was very disappointed in the Board of Supervisor's decision not to endorse the letter from the Public Authority.

UNION UPDATE

- Jeff Lambaren announced that he met with UDW and the insurance broker, appointed by UDW, which is Brown and Brown out of San Diego. They will be preparing a packet to let the union representatives decide on what is included in the benefits portion of it.
- The insurance person we are dealing with is Madelyn King; she asked the insurance companies to provide a quote as close to \$200.00 as possible.
- They discussed higher co pay and providing more people in the eligibility area or a lower co pay and less people. Dental insurance and life insurance were all considered in the mix.
- March 9, 2005 Madelyn King will return to the team and discuss what she got back from the insurance carriers.
- Potential benefit providers are Pacific Care, Blue Cross and Kaiser.
- Blue Shield and Signa said no.
- The time schedule they are looking at is,
- Getting the quote back from the carrier on March 2,
- Meeting with the team on March 9, in the meantime the Union will be sending a letter to the members to have them watch for info in the mail,
- Following up with another letter around March 15th we should know who and what.
- Another letter will be sent to providers, letting them know that their packet should be arriving in the mail.
- There will be information on how they can bring their information in or fill out the forms and send in.
- The current discussion on who will be covered is 75 hours or more a month to qualify for benefits.
- There are more people than the funding will provide benefits for.
- They have discussed going by seniority and waiting list.
- Jeff announced that he is working on obtaining a tax ID number so he can hire staff.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Dwight Bateman announced that he had just received a lot of information on legislative items that are affecting people with disabilities this term. He has not read the information yet.
- George Sharp will e-mail staff the information and staff will send it to the committee members.
- George Sharp announced that there are two important pieces of legislation that were introduced. One is at the state level and one is at the federal level.
- The state level is AB654, a euthanasia bill, the California Compassion Act.
- Dwight Bateman said they are taking the Oregon's bill and trying to duplicate the right to die bill in California.
- George Sharp announced that the Senate bill is S401, Senator Harkin introduced it, it's reintroduction of MICASA, and it's basically designed to get people out of institutions and into the community.
- The House version, HR910 was introduced 2/24/05, it's the House version of the bill.
- Dwight Bateman announced that there is a bill that affects the committee AB477, Baca is the author. IHSS provider health benefits. Introduced February 24, 2005.
- Dwight Bateman asked if Stanislaus County had a financial protection?
- Jeff Lambaren stated that the County wouldn't have to continue to pay the higher wage. Providers would go back to \$6.75 with no benefits.

IHSS WEB PAGE

- Jeff announced that the committee needs to finalize the web page so it can go live.
- Jeff Lambaren announced that the statistics needed to be updated.
- Committee members need to be updated
- Dwight Bateman asked if the web page has been through screen readers and has it been data tested.
- Dwight Bateman will ask a couple of visually impaired people to go into the web page when it's up and find out if they are able to navigate through the site and get all the information.
- Dwight Bateman will also run the web page through testing.
- Jeff Lambaren stated that there is no charge to make changes or updates, this is covered in the agreement.
- If we are doing substantial modifications there will be a charge.
- Dwight Bateman suggested that we put up the web page as it is now and make changes as they come up.

NEW MEMBER PACKET

- Staff will put a member packet together, packet will include:
- Annual report
- Recommendation to Board of Supervisors to become Employee of Record
- Bylaws
- Welcome letter signed by the chairperson
- Contact numbers of all members
- Copy of survey and results
- First page of website
- Schedule of Meetings
- Copy of the committees most current budget
- IHSS brochure

GENERAL UPDATE

- Ora Scruggs asked if the annual report could be printed in different languages.
- Dwight Bateman suggested that staff look through County policies on this, committee agreed.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Public Comment
- Acceptance of Minutes from 02/25/05 meeting
- Public Authority
- Legislative Update
- IHSS Web Page
- New Member Packet
- ID Problems
- Documents In Other Languages
- General Update
- Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Meeting Adjourned @2:27 PM
Veronica Melgoza, Recorder

