



COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY

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**STANISLAUS COUNTY
IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
06/13/08**

Committee Members Present:	Kenny Brown	Connie Muller	Jose Acosta
	Joan Blackwell	Robbyn Foster	Marie Cochran
	Mary Burch	Valerie Mitchell	Jose Cisneros

Committee Members Absent:

IHSS & Link2Care Staff Present:	Jeff Lambaren	Robert Taylor	Maria Childers
	Jennifer DeSanto	Egon Stammler	

Other Guests: Supervisor DeMartini

**Advance notice given.*

OPENING REMARKS by Chair Mary Burch

- Meeting called to order at 1:02 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Tamir Luqman from UDWA announced that a town hall meeting has been proposed for Stanislaus County to discuss the cuts to IHSS. Other counties have planned similar meetings, and response seems to be good. The Stanislaus County town hall may be scheduled in early July.
- Tamir also announced there are area meetings on a regular basis. There is one in Turlock on 6/24 at the Travelodge, Riverbank on 6/30 at the Scout Hall, all are encouraged to attend. Info about the budget and other items will be discussed.
- Representatives from UDWA were present when the Senate declined the cuts to IHSS – Tamir noted that because using the rankings for IHSS Recipients fell under IHSS policy, the Senate members felt that changing IHSS policy was outside of the scope of the request, and should be dealt with at the policy level.
- Robbyn Foster asked Tamir about the UDWA nominations. He stated that was handled by the members, and the San Diego office would need to be contacted if Providers would like more information.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- May 09, 2008 minutes: Motion M/S/A to accept minutes, motion to accept made by Kenny Brown, Connie Muller seconded, motion passed.



PUBLIC AUTHORITY

- The IHSS Report to the Community has been printed, and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on June 24th at 9:15am. IHSS Committee members are encouraged to attend. Once approved, the Report will be mailed to all Recipients and Providers on the IHSS program.
- Advisory Committee budget was reviewed. Travel expenses were less than anticipated, and once all the expenditures have been debited, there remains approximately \$16,000 in unused funds for '07-'08. Budget revisions for '08-'09 can be reviewed at a future meeting.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- The Assembly and Senate both rejected 4 of the 5 proposals from the Governor that would affect IHSS services. These included: reduction in IHSS wages, elimination of domestic & related tasks, and the State buyout of share of cost cases. All significant changes to the IHSS program were rejected.
- The SSP COLA suspension was adopted, but there were differences of opinion between the Senate and Assembly on which COLA's will be cut (and what the timelines would be).
- The Senate rejected the 10% cut to IHSS Program Administration services outright. The Assembly adopted the cuts, but proposed trailer language that would suspend focused eligibility reviews while the cuts were in place.
- CMIPS II funding was approved, although there is some dispute over the conversion budget, and the Senate did approve some Administrative positions to move from temporary to permanent on this project.
- Differences in implementation of the IHSS Quality Assurance need to be resolved in conference committee. The Assembly approved additional reporting requirements. The Senate did not adopt any additional language.
- The State Treasury announced the State is well funded into September, quelling rumors the State may be short funds if a budget is not passed.
- A conference committee will be needed to discuss Medi-Cal cuts. This proposed a reduction in reimbursements to doctors. The Senate approved a 5% reduction, but the Assembly proposed a reduction based on a sliding scale (all Assembly cuts would also be below 10%).
- The Democrats budget plan was unveiled on June 9th, but only provides for six billion in additional funding reductions, still leaving a major shortfall to the budget overall.
- The APS cuts were rejected by both Houses.
- AB851, Medi-Cal eligibility – Allows for the working disabled to continue with Medi-Cal benefits. The repeal date was removed, and premiums for Medi-Cal would be required, based on a percentage of income.
- AB2038, Elder Abuse Registry – The phrase “dependent adult” was changed to “Adult with disabilities”, and would move the primary responsibility to law enforcement for abuse reporting. Abuse would also fall under the Hate Crime law, and this would expand the interagency death team review and additional powers would be given for these reviews – but no funding has been approved for these changes.
- AB2716, Paid Sick Leave – This would entitle all workers in California to be paid for sick leave if they work at least seven days in a year for an employer. The employee must work for 90 days in order to use the sick leave benefit. This would impact the IHSS program, as a carve out for IHSS was denied. This is good for IHSS Providers, giving another benefit, but would add additional burdens and costs to the IHSS program in regards to budgeting and administration.
- AB2635, Parity for Disabled Employment – This proposal would require employers to reflect the same percentage of disabled employees in their workplace as are found in the general population. Committee members discussed how this was not reasonable, since many disabled are unable to work at all, and trying to match the percentage in the workplace to the population is not necessarily feasible.

- AB2139, Auto Insurance Bill – This bill prohibits insurance companies from charging IHSS Providers more on their insurance because they transport IHSS Recipients. This bill appears to be moving through without much resistance, which is good for IHSS Providers.

UPDATE ON CAPITOL ACTION DAY

- Robbyn Foster gave review of her experience at the Capital Action Day rally. She said the speakers were very good, and she was able to visit with members of the legislature.
- Mary Burch also attended, and wanted to thank UDWA for supporting Providers and Recipients by providing transportation and meals at the event. She felt the day was very effective and appreciated the opportunity to participate.

REVIEW BYLAWS

- Kenny suggested following the example of other IHSS Advisory Committees in the State and allowing for unlimited terms for IHSS AC members. No opposition was voiced, so a vote was held. Kenny moved to revise bylaws to allow for unlimited terms, Robbyn seconded. Vote was held, no opposition voiced, motion passed.
- Removal of IHSS AC members can be requested by the committee, but only the Board of Supervisors has the authority to remove a member from the committee.

MEDIA ASSIGNMENT

- CAPA members were presented with the letters written by the committee members, and the input was appreciated. Jeff extended a thank you to all IHSS Advisory Committee members who participated. These letters will be put into a booklet form that can be used when visiting with legislators to help show the impact the IHSS program has on individuals throughout the state.
- Connie suggested making a video of IHSS participants and the impact the program has on them. Robbyn offered to spearhead that project, and Mary suggested we agendize it for discussion at the next meeting.

GENERAL UPDATE

- Jeff congratulated Supervisor DeMartini on his re-election to the Board.
- Maria Childers asked if anyone was participating in the direct deposit program, and how it was working. IHSS Payroll has received positive feedback, and some Committee members also expressed satisfaction with the service. Maria stated that reports and statistics will be sent out in the next few months, and she will bring information as it becomes available.
- CSA has a new director, Christine Applegate. Christine is well versed in CSA programs, she came from Tehama County and has been invited to attend a future Advisory Committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned @ 1:54 PM,
Jennifer DeSanto, Recorder