

History of the IHSS Advisory Committee

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program has operated in Stanislaus County since 1979. The individual IHSS Consumer (or Recipient) has always been considered the employer, even though the State and County administer the program. Consumers have the right to hire and fire their own Providers. To assist Consumers with employer tasks, the County operated in a Supported Individual Provider (SIP) mode. The SIP mode gave Consumers additional support in locating and retaining Providers.

In July 1999, Assembly Bill 1682 was signed into law, which required each county to act as, or establish an "Employer of Record" for IHSS personnel. This was mandated to satisfy statutory law regarding employer-employee relations.

On September 13, 2001, the Board of Supervisors established the IHSS Advisory Committee to develop a recommendation for the establishment of an employer of record that was fiscally responsible, but protected the interests of IHSS Consumers and Providers. After extensive research and analysis provided by the committee, the Board of Supervisors approved Stanislaus County as the employer of record for the purposes of employer-employee relations at that time.

Due to an oversight in the law, the SIP mode counties were only eligible to receive State funding for Provider wages up to a maximum of \$7.11 per hour. This limitation caused an artificially low barrier on Provider wages in Stanislaus County. Legislation was sponsored to correct this omission. Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed the legislation, which necessitated a change to the structure.

On December 9, 2004, the Board of Supervisors authorized the creation of a Public Authority in Stanislaus County. The Public Authority is the employer of record for IHSS Providers, and can negotiate with a designated labor union for increased wages, health care benefits and other terms and conditions of employment.

The In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority of Stanislaus County (here after referred to as Link2Care) was created as a means to draw funds from the State for additional Provider wages. Link2Care is now the employer of record for labor relations purposes. In addition, Link2Care operates a registry, conducts background checks, and provides training to assist Consumers and Providers.