

COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY

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STANISLAUS COUNTY IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 1/11/08

Committee Members Present: Kenny Brown Connie Muller

Joan Blackwell Marie Cochran Jose Acosta Valerie Mitchell

Committee Members Absent: Mary Burch

Jose Cisneros

IHSS & Link2Care Staff Present: Maria Childers Jeff Lambaren

Jennifer DeSanto Robert Taylor

OPENING REMARKS by Temporary Chair Kenny Brown

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

 December 14, 2007 minutes: Motion M/S/A to accept minutes, motion to accept made by Connie Muller, Joan Blackwell seconded, motion passed.

PUBLIC AUTHORITY

- The training program is being updated. It was a three day program, and is being revised to a two day program. The second day is still a CPR class, but day one and three were revised and combined to a single day training. The reason for this was to minimize the amount of unpaid time providers had to attend training, and also to allow for future "academy" type training courses. The academy courses would be an ongoing requirement for active registry providers, and would be held quarterly.
- The registry has hit its saturation point, so Link2Care is not currently accepting applications for the registry. This allows us to get work for the active providers, ensuring the training providers do not seek employment elsewhere because we do not have enough referrals. Link2Care will begin accepting new registry providers again in late February.
- A process improvement has been made in regard to urgent substitute providers through the
 registry. There have been issues of non-payment and declination of services for registry
 providers sent as urgent substitutes. To help with this, Link2Care will now give hire packets and
 timecards to providers sent out on urgent requests. The long term goal for urgent care needs is
 to have specific registry providers with "emergency" status, who may receive higher pay, and be



^{*}Advance notice given.

contacted nights and weekends to go and work. Jeff will be visiting other Public Authorities who are using similar systems to try and develop a system for Stanislaus County.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- The budget shortfall is still the main focus of the legislature right now. There is a \$14 billion dollar deficit, so the governor has proposed a 10% across the board, in addition to other cuts. The other cuts include: selling emergency bonds, suspending bond payments, suspending Proposition 98, early release of "non-violent" inmates, cuts to the Medi-cal program, closing 48 state parks, sanctioning non-compliant Cal-Works families (rather than just the parents), suspending the SSI/SSP COLA this June and in 2009. This would be the State contribution only. Federal COLA is still available. The cuts that will affect IHSS the most are a proposed cut to the IHSS domestic and related tasks (these are the non-medical tasks).
- IHSS proposed cuts are in the hours allotted for domestic & related tasks (non-medical) as well as IHSS administration. Additionally, the proposal calls for 18 month evaluations instead of the 12 month evaluations currently being done. Provider wages and benefits have not been affected. The cuts to IHSS hours would be done automatically by CMIPS based on the evaluation done by the Social Worker using today's standards. Cuts are anticipated to be about 18% of the domestic and related hours. Approximately 97% of IHSS cases have domestic and related services as part of their overall IHSS hours.
- Funding for fingerprinting was approved by the State last year, but lack of funding this year
 means the State will not participate. Federal funds are still available, but State funds were not
 authorized.
- The healthcare proposal is on hold until the budget issues have been resolved.

LEADERSHIP PLANNING

- Time was spent brainstorming ideas for the upcoming year, and projects the Committee would like to pursue. The following topics were suggested:
 - Send another postcard for new members at the end of 2008, to replace members whose terms will be ending.
 - Discuss the emergency response plan for the county and make suggestions for the Special Populations survey that is currently being done. Kenny suggested asking the OES to come and present as part of this project.
 - Research communication options to reach IHSS participants. A mass calling device, mass e-mail device, etc. to be considered and recommended.
 - Additional training for IHSS Advisory Committee members in personnel issues. This
 includes a review of the Criminal History Matrix as well as a review of the forms and
 materials needed to review IHSS Registry Providers want to appeal their status.
 - Act as a sounding board for the Link2Care training classes and the new ideas for the "academy" format.
 - Explore the idea of an internship for the Public Authority, DRAIL, or possibly sponsor a portion of the MSW scholarship program at CSA.
 - Review the Annual Survey information and look at updating/revising the questions.
- Jeff challenged the committee to bring any issues affecting the community and any process improvements they see to the Committee for review and action.
- The Adult Services committee shared some of their goals for the next year. Anne Danhoff
 expressed that joining with the IHSSAC would allow county program staff from various
 departments to gain insight from the consumers and providers on IHSS, since they do not have
 as much public/end user involvement as the IHSSAC. Gerry expanded on this, giving a history
 of the ASAC, stating it is difficult to get community involvement for their Committee. Kenny from
 the IHSSAC suggested meeting quarterly together.

GENERAL UPDATE

- Anne Danhoff from the Adult Services Advisory Committee (ASAC) gave a handout regarding
 the Elder Justice Act. The ASAC supported this legislation and sent a letter to the legislature
 voicing their support. Anne requested the Advisory Committee review the material and consider
 supporting the legislation and send a letter as well. Kenny suggested this be placed on the
 agenda for the next meeting.
- Area Agency on Aging received a grant for fall prevention education. Jeff will bring reports on the progress of this as it become available.

Meeting adjourned @ 2:10 PM, Jennifer DeSanto, Recorder