



**COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY**

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**STANISLAUS COUNTY  
IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
09/10/10**

Committee Members Present:            Connie Muller                            Rose Martin  
   Valerie Mitchell                        Joan Blackwell  
   Linda White                            Marie Cochran  
   Carmen Morad

Committee Members Absent:            Jose Cisneros

IHSS & Link2Care Staff Present:        Jeff Lambaren                            Stephy Tracey

Other Guests:  
*\*Advance notice given.*

**OPENING REMARKS by Linda White**

- Meeting called to order at 1:05 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Connie's Individual Provider (IP), Brenda, had mentioned a Modesto Bee article which appeared earlier this week. Fraud investigators had gone through a recipient's personal items. He is mentally handicapped and was so frightened he locked himself in the bathroom.

**NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER**

- Carmen Morad, who is also an IP, was introduced as a new committee member.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

- Acceptance of minutes from 6/11/10: Motion to accept made by Connie Muller, Joan Blackwell seconded, motion passed.

**PUBLIC AUTHORITY UPDATE**

- Jeff updated Carmen Morad, new committee member, on the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Advisory Committee's background and the changes that have occurred. The meeting schedule has changed from monthly to quarterly (March, June, September, and December). The meeting location will now be at County Center III, 917 Oakdale Road, at 1:00pm in room 4. Jeff also explained how budget issues have affected the IHSS program.
- The IHSS Advisory Committee's website has been updated. The website can be accessed by going to the County's main page, click on the department tab at top, click on services, scroll to bottom, In Home Support Services Committee. The IHSS Advisor Committee's home page offers various types of information such as budget updates, meeting schedules, previous minutes, agendas, and reports. If there is anything else that someone would like added to the website, please let Jeff know. There is a link available to send email to the website location.



- Public Authority (PA) closed their office in downtown Modesto and relocated to County Center VI, the Hackett Road facility. The PA website was updated and went live yesterday. The new address is 251 E Hackett Road in Modesto. The new phone numbers are as follows: Main # 558-1650; Jeff 558-1665; Maria 558-1666; Sheila 558-1668.
- Public Authority will still perform its traditional functions; it does negotiations with the union for benefits. It operates a registry referral service for Consumers and administers health benefits for covered Providers. There are two types of Providers: Registry with multiple clients and family/friend which is the general population.

## LEGISLATION

- Legislation has grounded to a halt. 60 days without a budget is the 3<sup>rd</sup> longest period in time without a State budget. It appears that we will have elections and a State budget in November. A bill, AB1763, was introduced by the United Domestic Workers Union regarding sharing information. IP's who provide services in multiple counties would not need to do 2 separate background checks. The three main denials are: Elder abuse, child abuse, and fraud against governmental health care entity. Information is reviewed and destroyed if they pass the background, no need for us to keep results. The Department of Justice (DOJ) keeps record every time a background check is requested. It costs more to share results than individual checks by each county. The bill has gone sideways and amendments have been made.

## STATE BUDGET UPDATE

- A Provider Tax has been proposed and is supported by the unions. Currently there are 24 pay periods for IHSS Providers, there would be a 25<sup>th</sup> pay period added. The State would take taxes out of each check, puts the amount aside, and sends a 25<sup>th</sup> check with zero pay, showing the taxes which were paid. This fund would be matched by Federal monies. The money collected would go back into the program. It is projected to generate \$190 million a year.
- There is a proposal to reduce IHSS Consumers hours by 3% across the board.
- The growth rate of the program has slowed statewide and some savings are expected due to reduced program growth.

## LAWSUIT UPDATE

- Oster v Wagner – Related to financial index score. The rank is 1 (capable of doing self) through 5 (incapable of doing). Would eliminate recipients from program if index is 4 or below. Would represent an 87% program reduction in Stanislaus County. This lawsuit is still working its way through the courts.
- Beckwith Ellis v Wagner – 3 crimes lawsuit. If an IP had any felony or serious misdemeanor convictions they would be excluded forever from being an IP. Court re-ruled that the IP's cannot be excluded for any felony or serious misdemeanors and reaffirmed that only the "three crimes" were exclusionary. The lawsuit is still working its way through the courts.
- Dominguez v Schwarzenegger – Wages and benefits. Reduce wages to \$10.10 (\$9.50 wage/\$.60 benefits). Every county has different wage, this would make the wages the same for all counties.

## POST CARDS STATUS

- The post cards regarding the notification to Providers and Consumers of the changes to PA and the Report to the Community are on Jeff's desk "to do" pile.

## RETREAT PLANNING

- The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. It will be a "working day" from 10:00am-2:00pm. The morning will consist of a planning session regarding a strategic plan (mission statement and related activities), the future of the committee, mandatory Ethics training which will be due soon and will still have to be completed. Jeff will choose a speaker(s) and topic for the afternoon. Carmen is going to contact some businesses who would be willing to supply food at no cost (20 people prox) and we would send them thank-you letters on County letterhead. Everyone will bring side dishes and desserts. Jeff will supply plates, napkins, utensils, and beverages. Sheila will decorate the room.

## GENERAL UPDATE

- Jeff announced that there will be gathering of interest groups called "Hands Around the Capitol" on Wed., September 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm on the South steps of the State Capitol. Health and Human Services Network is sponsoring this event and transportation is available from Modesto. This day was chosen because the legislative leaders are back in Sacramento and the Governor is back from his overseas visit.

- Jeff said, per the State Controller, August cash figure revenues rose \$264 million or 3.9% which is enough to pay bills until October. There was a 4.1% increase in personal income tax, 117% corporate tax down, sales tax little above estimate.
- Jeff said that there are 2 cases in court: The furlough of State workers and emergency budget cuts (line item from last year). A ruling is expected in 90 days.
- Jeff informed the Committee that a presentation was made to the Board of Supervisors on August 31<sup>st</sup> by the Special Investigations Unit. The presentation was about Stanislaus County's IHSS Program Integrity/Anti-Fraud pilot program and preliminary results. A video record is available on the Board's website. If the public is wondering how the Special Investigation Unit conducts their investigations they should view the presentation.

Meeting adjourned @ 3:00 PM.  
Stephy Tracey, Recorder