



**THE IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
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**STANISLAUS COUNTY  
IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IHSSAC)  
MEETING MINUTES  
1/24/2014**

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

Committee Members Absent: Rose Martin

Other Guests: Theresa Zamora

IHSS & Link2Care Staff Present: Jeff Lambaren Stephy Tracey  
Cherise Babb

**OPENING REMARKS by Linda White**

- Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- IHSS Advisory Committee member Carmen Morad invited Theresa Zamora, a Behavioral Health Consultant from Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) to the meeting. Carmen has been involved with BHRS and has attended their Mental Health First Aid presentation. Theresa gave an overview of the Mental Health First Aid training as well as her business card, Crisis Line information card, and a brochure on Mental Health First Aid. The training is open to anyone in the community and is offered in both English and Spanish. The training is designed for 20-40 attendees per session and is available on Saturdays as well as during the week. Theresa requests at least 2 months advance notice to have all needed materials for the training. Certificates would be issued after attending the training and are valid for 5 years. Mental First Aid is available for both adult and youth. The goal of the training is to support and increase wellness, diminish the stigma that exists with mental health, create a supportive environment, educate and inform individuals and raise awareness about mental health issues. After the training participants should be able to recognize symptoms such as depression, anxiety, substance abuse, suicidal tendencies, bi-polar disorders, eating disorders. The Committee thanked Theresa for her informative presentation.

## ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- Meeting minutes from the November 15, 2013 meeting were accepted.

## PUBLIC AUTHORITY UPDATE

- Committee members Valerie Mitchell, Juanita Cochran, Joan Blackwell and Carmen Morad were reappointed to the IHSS Advisory Committee. A letter was sent from the Board of Supervisors to each of the reappointed members.
- AB-1234 Ethics training. After a conversation with County Counsel it was determined that AB-1234 Ethics training does apply to Committee Members. It is strongly recommended that an attorney present the AB-1234 training in case any issues or questions arise. Stanislaus County is offering AB-1234 Ethics training on Wednesday, March 5th from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. It is assumed that the training will be held at 10th Street Place in the Chambers. Jeff will arrange to assist with transportation of Advisory Committee members if needed. Jeff requested that the Committee Members check their schedules and plan to attend the training.
- Jeff provided the Committee members with a copy of the Link2Care Registry Provider/Recipient Eligibility and Complaint Policy. The purpose of this document is to clearly define the application requirements, causes for exemption, causes for removal, complaint process and appeals process for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Registry Providers and Recipients. Jeff had previously asked the Committee members to review the policy and provide input and feedback regarding the policy. The document was reviewed and the Committee members approved the policy without changes.

## BUDGET UPDATE

- Provider Overtime. The Governor's Proposed 2014-15 Budget seeks to address recently enacted Federal rules, which become effective January 1, 2015, that will require the payment of overtime to domestic workers (IHSS Providers) who work more than 40 hours per week. The Governor's proposal would limit IHSS Providers to 40 hours per week. The proposal would have each IHSS Provider complete a form acknowledging that they cannot work more than 40 hours per week whether they have one or multiple clients. If a Provider claims more than 40 hours, the State will send a warning letter. If the Provider does it again, they would be kicked out of the program. The cost of paying overtime compensation in the IHSS Program is estimated at \$600 million dollars. To assist IHSS Recipients who may need additional Providers, the Governor proposes a "Back-up Provider" system. The Back-up system would provide caregivers to the Recipient on short notice. Back-up Providers would receive additional compensation for their work. Additionally, the Governor's Proposed 2014-15 Budget indicated that the Federal rules change would also require payment for travel time between Recipients and additional compensated time waiting for the Recipient at medical appointments. Jeff also mentioned that there is a recent article in the LA Times "*Union Drive for Home Care Aides' Overtime Pay Could Backfire in California*" January 20, 2014, regarding the overtime issue for providers. He also noted that former IHSS Advisory Committee member, Mary Birch, was quoted in an article from the January 14, 2014, SF Gate entitled "*In-Home Workers Protest Jerry Brown's Plan to Ban OT*". Mary is her daughter's caregiver and the proposed overtime regulations would cause her to have a 40% income loss as she would lose over 100 hours per month in pay.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

- Handout, “AB 485.” This two-year bill seeks to delink the Statewide Public Authority from the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI). The CCI pilot program is currently in 8 counties; mostly in Southern CA. CCI seeks to reduce the cycle of frequent re-hospitalization of the elderly poor by better coordinating services and providing long term care support services like IHSS to this population. Current legislation provides that when a county completes its CCI enrollment, collective bargaining with IHSS Providers unions would then shift to the State. This bill would shift collective bargaining direct to State upon passage and would no longer tie to the completion of CCI enrollment.
- There is currently a case before the United States Supreme Court, Harris vs. Quinn, involving in-home care providers. Advocates from the National Right to Work Foundation sued Illinois Governor Pat Quinn and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). The plaintiff alleges that the State and SEIU conspired to re-label private care providers as state employees so the union could collect more fees. They are also challenging whether workers who don’t want to participate in the union should be forced to pay dues.

## **FURTHER ACTION PLANNING FOR 2014**

- The Committee reviewed the January, 2014 issue of its newsletter. Connie submitted a great article for the newsletter. It also includes an article regarding the provider overtime issue, a word search jumble puzzle, and 2013 W-2 information. Our next newsletter will be published when we have additional information.
- Committee members asked about provider outreach, specifically the recruitment of Providers who live in the outlying areas of the County. Ideas that were discussed were to have postings in the Employment Development Department notifying potential caregivers of the need and to contact volunteer organizations and let them know of the need. Jeff mentioned this is possible but added that we need to balance the number of Providers on the Registry and Recipients needing services.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Disability Capitol Day in Sacramento on Wednesday, May 21st @ 10:00am. Carmen expressed possible interest in attending. If so, she would want the Committee to come up with an action plan. Suggestions include contacting our legislators beforehand and supply them with statistics regarding our program. All members are requested to bring ideas to the next meeting for further discussion.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT**

- Linda shared American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) bulletin.

## **MEETING SCHEDULE FOR NEXT CALENDAR YEAR**

- Jeff distributed the 2014 meeting schedule for the Committee’s approval. Meetings will now be held on a monthly basis. The Committee approved the meeting schedule and it will be posted on the Committee’s website.

## **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Public Comment
- Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from January 24, 2014 meeting
- Public Authority Update
- Budget Update
- Legislative Update
- Further Action Planning for 2014
- Committee Members Report
- Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Stephy Tracey, Recorder