

IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

January 2014



The Journey Continues

by Connie Muller IHSSAC Member

I joined the IHSS Advisory Committee when it was initially formed in 2001, and, except for a short sabbatical, have gladly served since.

I worked at the Modesto Gospel Mission years before, and one of my tasks included taking the mothers to the welfare department. What I experienced there lit a fire in me to help the less fortunate. Then, I became handicapped and after going on SSI, became one of them. When this committee opportunity came up, I jumped at the chance to help others.

Our Committee has been instrumental in getting the union established, thus ensuring higher wages for the providers, which, in turn, makes for better services for the recipient. Some of the changes we implemented were cut back when the budget crisis hit, but we are still working to make a better experience for consumers.

Although this service is mainly to keep Mom or Dad out of a nursing facility, it also benefits the handicapped. Until one needs

it, one cannot imagine how important these services are. I can no longer breathe well enough to vacuum my floor. It chokes me even when my caregiver does it, and I have to go into another room. With my two dogs, it needs it regularly.

I'm very grateful to live in a country that provides for its old and infirm, and will work to help keep the services coming. It has been a long trip, but the journey continues.

If you would like to find out more about being an IHSSAC Member please visit the Committee's Website at www.stancounty.com/IHSSAC

A link to applications is available at the site. All IHSSAC Members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

We are currently accepting applications for IHSS Consumers.

Over Time

In September 2013 the United States Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division released its amended regulations to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) regarding Companionship Services. The revised regulations will be effective January 1, 2015. Until this amendment the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program had

Overtime continued

been exempt from FLSA requirements as IHSS Providers were deemed domestic service workers who provided "companionship services" to individuals with disabilities or the elderly. The change in the regulations means that IHSS Providers would be eligible for overtime pay.



In January 2014, the Governor released his January Budget proposal, in the budget the State addressed the overtime issue indicating that the State would limit the amount of hours an IHSS Provider could work at 40 hours per week thereby avoiding the overtime issue. The State indicated the cost of overtime in the program would increase program costs by over \$600 million in FY 2015-16.

If the Governor's proposal is adopted the impact on the IHSS program would be two-fold, Providers would be limited to 40 per week and Recipients who need care in excess of 40 hours per week would need to employ additional Providers to have their needs met. This issue is a long way from settled, and as with past years, this will be an interesting time for the IHSS Program.

WORD SEARCH

Find the following 15 words and acronyms in the jumble below.

OVERTIME FLSA PROVIDER
IHSS JANUARY JOURNEY
COMMITTEE COMPANIONSHIP
BOARD UNION NURSING
MISSION RECIPIENT PAY SERVICES

S E N R T U G G O P M F V T S
E T C B R Y N O I S S I M M P
C H E R R I K G K L N M G F K
I P I H S N O I N A P M O C B
V I N R C O B O N R V A Y T T
R P U M K I C R S P N T Y C N
E N M T R N W N S L E P E N E
S Y M S D U F P H M E P N B I
C P B R N M R D I K T P R A P
P U A I D O V T G B T F U S I
M O Y P V C R E M X I Q O D C
B B V I I E O F C P M S J R E
E N D S V M N S F C M O T N R
N E J O L I H L V R O N L E Y
R M Y R A U N A J S C C T A D

Important Numbers

IHSS Intake	558-2637
IHSS Payroll	558-3976
Public Authority	558-1650
APS	558-2637

W2's

For the 2013 calendar year, W-2's will be mailed no later than January 31, 2014 to all providers who earned an income in the year 2013. Duplicate or replacements can be requested after February 24, 2014.