



County of Santa Cruz

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY

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IHSS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: Friday, August 4, 2006
TIME: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: CareerWorks – Sunroom, 1040 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz
PRESENT: Michael Molesky, Consumer Rose Marie Barker, Provider
Charles Levine, Seniors Commission Catherine Patterson-Valdez, LTCIC
EXCUSED: Foster Andersen, Consumer Bil McMullen, Consumer
Roger E. McKowan, Consumer Charles Stone, Commission on Disabilities
ABSENT: Sandra Seeger, Consumer
STAFF: Sara Paz-Nethercutt, Human Resources Agency
GUESTS: Brenda Moss, Sr. Network Services; Karina Aragon and Jeanette Renee, HRA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER, AGENDA REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Chair, Michael Molesky, called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. A quorum could not be established, so the June minutes were tabled until the next meeting.
- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.
- 3. CORRESPONDENCE:** The Chair circulated correspondence the Commission has received.
- 4. PRESENTATION – CATHERINE PATTERSON-VALDEZ, LIFT LINE:** Ms. Patterson-Valdez distributed a handout of charts detailing information on Lift Line's operations over the past year. She explained Lift Line's operations as the Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA) for Santa Cruz County. She also stated that the Regional Transportation Commission is considering taking \$300,000 in funding away from Lift Line. She is doing a study to explain why Lift Line will continue to need these funds. In addition to rides, Lift Line provides taxi scrip to low-income clients. \$30 worth of rides can be purchased for \$8. They provide rides to dental appointments as well as other medical appointments.

Transportation will become a regular report on the agenda since Ms. Patterson-Valdez has been appointed to the Commission to represent the Long Term Care Commission.

- 4. IHSS GENERAL OPERATIONS REPORT:** In the absence of Francie Newfield, Karina Aragon reported that IHSS share-of-cost letters went out in May. They generated a lot of phone calls at first, but now that providers and consumers receive monthly letters stating the amount that each client pays their provider, phone calls have greatly decreased. Sara Paz-Nethercutt stated that providers are being educated about the share-of-cost component in orientations. Sara stated that the IHSS clerical and Social Worker I vacancies have yet to be filled. Karina reported that there is a problem with Income Eligible clients who have a share of cost. The MediCal program can no longer provide income information, so a system is needed that will work with CMIPS to get this information. The Deficit Reduction Act presentation by Gail Goudreau was postponed for the next commission

meeting in September. The State's QA review results have been received. They reviewed 74 case files and found that there were too many overdue cases. Overtime has been approved to get these done and headway is slowly being made since workers have to do current cases as well as the overdue ones. Local QA Review from December 2005 through June 30, 2006, by a half-time QA reviewer, completed 178 cases. The state mandate is 250 cases per year.

6. IHSS PUBLIC AUTHORITY:

A. SNS Registry Status Report: Sara Paz-Nethercutt reported that the Public Authority Registry closed in July. Letters were sent to the 58 providers remaining on the Registry to let them know to apply to the SNS Registry. Responses were received from 31 providers, half of whom were already on it. The contract renewal for the SNS Registry will go to the Board of Supervisors for approval on August 15. Brenda Moss reported that so far SNS has recruited 165 providers, has 97 on the active registry, and 125 matches have been made. They have hired one full-time and one part-time staff to work on the registry. She explained that three programs (respite and home help, as well as the registry) are operating from the same office, and the new staff members have to learn all of these programs. This works well for the consumers who can get all these services with one phone call. New providers are still needed since most of them are booked all the time.

B. Program Activities Updates: Sara Paz-Nethercutt reported that Patty Lopez, PA clerical support, resigned. Other staff is temporarily filling in until a new clerk can be hired. New providers are being recruited at job fairs and by CareerWorks/Adult Services divisions cross-over work. An IHSS eligibility guideline and provider application process handout was developed for CareerWorks staff. A copy was distributed for Commissioners. The Health Insurance Task Force will meet again on 8/9 for a presentation by Central Coast Alliance for Health. An insurance improvement package was requested for provider insurance enhancements at no additional county or provider cost.

C. Provider Training Consortium: Sara Paz-Nethercutt reported that flyers for upcoming trainings were mailed out today to 1700 providers. Two sets of trainings will take place. They will be conducted in English in North County and in Spanish in South County. The announcement is on the PA website and has been sent to the union. It will also be announced in provider orientation meetings. Training flyer distributed to all commissioners.

D. 2006 Forum Update: Sara Paz-Nethercutt reported that the forum flyer will be mailed to over 3,000 providers and consumers next week. She distributed a list of community agencies that the flyer will also be mailed to. Several additions were made to the list. She distributed flyers to be posted in prominent locations. The schedule of the forum was then finalized. A Spanish interpreter and headsets have been reserved for the event.

6.7. IHSS Advisory Commission Vacancies: The commission continues to have two vacancies: Consumer and a Care Provider.

8. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

A.

**9. NEXT MEETING: Friday, September 1, 2006, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Human Resources Agency
1040 Emeline Avenue, Career Works – Sunroom
Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.