



County of Santa Cruz

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY

18 W. Beach Street, Watsonville, CA 95076
Mailing: P.O. Box 1300, Santa Cruz, CA 95061
(831) 454-4036 FAX: (831) 763-8906

www.santacruzinhomecare.org

IHSS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: Friday, February 2, 2007
TIME: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: CareerWorks – Sunroom, 1040 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz
PRESENT: Michael Molesky, Consumer Foster Andersen, Consumer
Rose Marie Barker, Provider Charles Levine, Seniors Commission
Catherine Patterson-Valdez, LTCIC Sandra Seeger, Consumer
Charles Stone, Commission on Disabilities
EXCUSED: None
ABSENT: Roger E. McKowan, Consumer
STAFF: Sara Paz-Nethercutt, Human Resources Agency
GUESTS: Anita Skylar, provider; Julie Boudreau, Hospice Caring Project; Ricardo Dalessandro, consumer; Jose Hinojosa, provider; Arcelia Montoya, SEIU/ULTCW; Leticia Garcia, Francie Newfield, Marivel Castillo, and Jeanette Renee, HRA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER, AGENDA REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Chair, Michael Molesky, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. A quorum was established, and the December minutes were approved as written (*Stone/Seeger*) *MSP*.
- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Commissioner Levine stated that a man he knows is offering pro bono computer services. Several attendees asked for further information on this. The Chair announced that homecare workers are now in a different chapter of SEIU. Sara Paz-Nethercutt distributed a flyer with the new union contact information. Jose Hinojosa, a provider in Watsonville, stated that he would like to join the Commission. Ricardo Dalessandro, a consumer, also plans to apply for a seat on the Commission. Francie Newfield gave an update on Elderday. The Board of Supervisors approved a proposal from the Health Services Agency that will supplement Elderday funding for three months while they try to find another sponsor agency. They remain open and are asking for referrals to boost the daily attendance. Higher attendance will make it more viable for a new host agency. Sara stated that a copy of the Commission's letter supporting Elderday is in the correspondence folder. Foster Andersen distributed the winter/spring newsletter from Shared Adventures. On behalf of Roger McKowan, Jeanette Renee distributed a flyer in tribute to deceased Commissioner, Bil McMullen.
- 3. CORRESPONDENCE:** The Chair circulated correspondence the Commission has received.
- 4. PRESENTATION: Make Your Wishes Known – Julie Boudreau**
Ms. Boudreau stated that she is now spearheading the Make Your Wishes Known Project for Hospice Caring Project. She spoke of the situations that led to its formation and then distributed small flyers that are placed in doctors' offices to encourage patients to make an Advance Health Care Directive (AHCD). She also distributed copies of a form that can be used to this purpose. She explained that a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) is not the same as an AHCD. She encouraged those who have these documents to place them on their refrigerator or in a room where they spend a lot of time for easy

access. In emergency situations, paramedics will need to find them right away. The Make Your Wishes Known Project provides copies of the AHCD forms free of charge or they can be downloaded from the internet. HSA has a prominent link on their website to this. It was suggested that first responders be asked to attend a future meeting to explain how they handle DNR's and AHCD's.

5. IHSS GENERAL OPERATIONS REPORT:

A. Program Activities Update: Francie Newfield reported that planning for the 2007-08 budget has begun. It will be a status quo budget. The Governor is proposing a cap on state funds used to pay homecare providers. If accepted by the legislature, this would mean that any raises in providers' pay would be split between federal and county funds with no additional state participation. Adult Services Director Don Allegri will retire on April 6th. He will attend the next meeting to say good-bye to the Commissioners. IHSS staff is still somewhat in flux. Ron Lee was promoted to the QA Specialist job and thus his job will have to be filled. The State sent out a policy letter requiring the used of their safety back-up plan. Since it is not as comprehensive as the one we use now, we are seeking permission to merge the two plans.

B. Quality Assurance Update: Sara Paz-Nethercutt stated that Candace Leverenz will move on to other projects now that Ron Lee is the QA Specialist. There is still a vacancy for clerical staff (half-time with QA and half-time with PA).

C. IHSS Enhancement Initiative Educational Material Review: Due to the large amount of material sent by the state, consumer and provider materials will be reviewed at separate meetings. Sara stated that she has all the state materials on disk, so that separate sections can be selected for future use. She showed the Commission the materials that consumers are currently given at intake interviews. A discussion led to a list of consumer needs and recommendations. A subcommittee will continue the review and report at the next meeting.

6. IHSS PUBLIC AUTHORITY:

A. SNS Registry Status Report: Sara Paz-Nethercutt reported that Senior Network Services made 38 matches and 16 re-matches in December 2006 and had 25 new requests for providers.

B. Program Activities Update: Marivel Castillo, the PA Social Worker, has begun taking staff referrals for specialized assistance to IHSS consumers who meet at least one of the following criteria: high provider turnover; appearing on the CMIPS no active provider list; difficult to match by Registry; clients with multiple providers requiring monthly calendars for provider coordination; as well as helping providers to resolve their problems.

7. IHSS Advisory Commission Vacancies: The prospective Commissioners were encouraged to complete applications for the current vacancies (one provider and two consumers).

8. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: Transportation update by Commissioner Patterson-Valdez; presentation on the new homecare workers union; continued review of state-issued materials.

9. NEXT MEETING: Friday, March 2, 2007, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Human Resources Agency, 1040 Emeline Ave., Sunroom
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.