



# County of Santa Cruz

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## IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY

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## IHSS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

**DATE:** Friday, December 7, 2007  
**TIME:** 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** CareerWorks – Sunroom, 1040 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz  
**PRESENT:** Michael Molesky, Consumer Foster Andersen, Consumer  
Charles Stone, Comm. on Disabilities Patti Shevlin, Provider  
Barri Boone, Provider Ricardo Dalessandro, Consumer  
**EXCUSED:** Charles Levine, Seniors Commission, Catherine Patterson-Valdez, LTCIC  
**ABSENT:**  
**STAFF:** Sara Paz-Nethercutt, Human Resources Agency  
**GUESTS:** Richard Schmale, Guest, Francie Newfield, Sandy Skezas, Marivel Castillo and Raquel Verdia, HRA

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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 was established and November minutes were approved as written. *(Shevlin/Foster) MSP*
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Foster Anderson distributed the Shared Adventures winter calendar of activities. This weekend they have wine tasting at Bonny Doon, next Saturday the IMAX Movie, Tech Museum & Christmas in the Park. They have over 65 people going. He also distributed a flyer to support young artist that draw beautiful & unique cards. They are available to view on the Internet under [www.sharedadventures.org](http://www.sharedadventures.org)  
  
Charles Stone announced that the Commission on Disabilities posted a link to Shared Adventures on their website.  
  
Michael Molesky announced changes to plans with Medicare Part D. Those interested must enroll by December 31, 2007. Contact HICAP at 462-5510 located at the Senior Center in Capitola for assistance.
3. **CORRESPONDENCE:** The Chair circulated correspondence the Commission has received.
4. **IHSS GENERAL OPERATIONS REPORT:**
  - A. **Program Activities Update:** Francie Newfield reported that there are no major new initiatives going on in IHSS. She gave a few updates; one of the IHSS SW is going out on maternity leave, they are in the process of hiring a temporary person to fill that slot. Also an additional IHSS Social Worker will be hired another new slot was opened.

**B. Quality Assurance Update** – Francie Newfield reported that the quality improvement requirement to maintain annual reassessment every 12 mo. and the difficulty in meeting that requirement for all clients. Counties are expected to have at least 90% compliance with that. Feedback on the language and content from the draft letter regarding payroll direct deposit implementation for IHSS providers was sent back to the State. The Commission will be kept posted with the resulting final document. Several staff from the HRA division are working with other people in the County around new things that are happening with emergency preparedness plan and it will be presented to the Commission sometime in the future.

Francie introduced Sandy Skezas, IHSS Program Manager. She has been with the division for over 8 years.

## **5. IHSS PUBLIC AUTHORITY:**

**A. SNS Registry Status Report:** Sara Paz-Nethercutt reported the following provider/consumer match data for the month of October: SNS takes an average of 5 days to match on new referrals; 3 days to match on re- referrals and 23 days to match on open referrals. They continue to meet on a monthly basis to prioritize the different unmet needs that have been identified by IHSS Program staff or the Public Authority. SNS will develop strategies for meeting the needs and the PA will report to the Commission on this item in the future.

**B. Program Activities Update:** Sara Paz-Nethercutt distributed the 2008 PA training calendar for the months of January - June. A mass mailing of this flyer will be done in early January. It will be posted on the PA website and announced at the bi monthly PA Orientations. The PA was also informed of a California Department of Insurance, low cost automobile insurance program for low-income individuals. Sara distributed a flyer and this information is available at the bi-monthly orientations. There is a link posted on the PA website to the Department of Insurance for those interested in getting more information. The negotiations for provider benefits were completed and approved by the Board of Supervisors on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The highlights include a wage increase to \$11.50 an hour and health insurance change to a Union Health Trust. The PA will begin to work with the Union on transitioning providers to the health trust very soon.

## **6. IHSS Advisory Commission**

### **A. Vacancies – 2 consumers**

There are two consumer vacancies, Zachary Woodford, consumer will be up for appointment December 11, 2007. Recruitment for new commissioners continues. Commission Chair suggested commissioners bring a guest to future meetings to provide interested community members an opportunity to attend a meeting and see what the commission is all about.

### **B. 2007 Annual Report – due 1/31/08**

Sara Paz-Nethercutt distributed copies of the annual report for 2006 and asked Commissioners to review and write down any ideas for the 2007 annual report for the January commission meeting. Sara announced that Cecilia Espinola, HRA Director would like each of the Commissions that are staffed by HRA to establish an annual work plan. In the February meeting, we can begin some work on developing a work plan for this Commission. Work plan would include goals and objectives for the coming year.

7. **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDAS:** Deficit Reduction Act by Francie Newfield; Union Health Trust by LTCW Representative.
8. **NEXT MEETING:** Next meeting Friday, January 4, 2008, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. SUNROOM
9. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.  
(Minutes recorded by Raquel Verdia, edited and respectfully submitted by Sara Paz-Nethercutt, Sr. Analyst, IHSS Public Authority.)