



County of Santa Cruz

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY

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IHSS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: Friday, February 1, 2008
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
Ricardo Dalessandro, Consumer Charles Levine, Seniors Commission
Catherine Patterson-Valdez, LTCIC Zachary Woodford, Consumer
EXCUSED: None
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Sara Paz-Nethercutt, Human Services Department
GUESTS: Mason Stone, Guest, Anatalia Avila, Provider, Carmen Sanchez, Provider, Arcelia Montoya, SEIU/ULTCW; Francie Newfield, Marivel Castillo and Raquel Verdia, HSD

- 1. CALL TO ORDER, AGENDA REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Chair, Michael Molesky, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. The January 4, 2008 meeting was cancelled due to severe weather (storm) and power outages. A quorum was established and Zachary Woodford, our newest Commissioner, was welcomed. The December minutes were approved as written (*Stone/Levine*) *MSP*
- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Michael Molesky distributed the Annual report and the 2008 IHSS Advisory Commission meeting schedule.

Patti Shevlin distributed an open letter to the commission with her concerns about preventing the spread of infections of any kind from one person to another. Chairman Molesky asked that this topic be on the agenda for the March meeting.

Catherine Patterson-Valdez, LTCIC reported that they are lobbying for transportation funding.

Foster Anderson announced that Shared Adventures is having a sky trip to Bear Valley in March.

Marivel Castillo distributed information on Earned Income Credit. Call Project Scout toll free at (877) 373-8297 for locations and dates. This information will be posted on the PA website and information will be distributed at the PA orientations during tax season.

- 3. CORRESPONDENCE:** The Chair circulated correspondence the Commission has received.

- 4. PRESENTATION: SEIU, Long Term Care Workers Union Health Trust, Benigno Delgado**
On behalf of Benigno Delgado's absence, Arcelia Montoya, SEIU/ULTCW reported on the Long Term Care Workers Health Trust Fund, which will be effective April 1, 2008. Mr. Delgado was unable to attend and sent Ms. Montoya in his place. She distributed a copy of the health trust packet that contained insurance information for IHSS providers. There were several specific questions from guests present and Ms. Montoya agreed to return to next months meeting with answers.

5. IHSS GENERAL OPERATIONS REPORT

- A. Program Activities Update:** Francie Newfield reported that effective today there is a new name for our Agency. It will no longer be HRA it is now HSD, Human Services Department. She gave a few updates; two Social Workers are out on maternity leave and there is extra help filling in for them; proposed budget cuts, related to IHSS, the Governor proposed 10% across the board to different programs. As currently proposed there would be an 18% reduction of assessed "domestic and related" services. This would affect nearly all IHSS clients. It is also proposed that regular assessments occur less frequently than the current 12-month requirement. This would allow the state to reduce funding for IHSS staffing which would result in higher caseloads for social workers which would also impact clients. These are just proposals but Ms. Newfield encouraged that consumers, providers, and other stakeholders remain informed for advocacy purposes.

- B. Quality Assurance Update** – Sara Paz-Nethercutt reported that the QA unit is working with program to develop a customer satisfaction survey to be sent to IHSS consumers. It will be shared with the Commission before mailing.

C. Deficit Reduction Act:

Francie Newfield presented a power point slide show on Deficit Reduction Act. She reviewed the requirements on DRA proof of Citizenship and Identity for Public Assistance benefits. She distributed a packet that included a copy of the slide show. Most of the people on IHSS are either on SSI or Medicare and are therefore exempt from having to provide this documentation.

6. IHSS PUBLIC AUTHORITY:

- A. SNS Registry Status Report:** Sara Paz-Nethercutt reported the following provider/consumer match data for the month of December: SNS takes an average of 4 days to match on new referrals; 6 days to match on re- referrals and 15 days to match on open referrals.

- B. Program Activities Update:** Sara Paz-Nethercutt reported that the First Aid training class was held in January, this month the same class will be offered in Spanish. In March/April, Caring for Someone with Dementia, and May/June, Safe Transferring Techniques. If anyone is interested in registering for the classes please call the PA.

7. IHSS Advisory Commission

A. Vacancies – 2 consumers

There are two consumer vacancies. 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. 2008 Commission Workplan

Sara Paz-Nethercutt reported that the PA newsletter will be re-established. She recommended to the commission that we make a workgroup item for future commission meetings. She reported that a work plan has been drafted and distributed a copy of it. She would like to find out what commissioners want to see as topics for the each group. The annual plan goals were used to establish the draft commission workplan. The group began brainstorming ideas for the workplan and in the interest of time, this agenda will be carried over to next months meeting for completion.

- 7. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDAS:** Follow up on Union Health Trust by LTCW Representative; Infection control for IHSS recipients & providers- Patty Shevlin, Commissioner; 2008 Commission Workplan; Work Group: Newsletter
- 8. NEXT MEETING:** Next meeting Friday, March 7, 2008, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. SUNROOM
- 9. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.
(Minutes recorded by Raquel Verdia, edited and respectfully submitted by Sara Paz-Nethercutt, Sr. Analyst, IHSS Public Authority.)