



County of Santa Cruz

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY

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IHSS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: Friday, May 1, 2009

TIME: 1:30 pm-3:30 pm

PLACE: 1400 Emeline Ave. Bldg. K Room 206, Santa Cruz, CA

PRESENT: Michael Molesky, Consumer Charles Stone, Commission on Disabilities

Foster Anderson, Consumer Zachary Woodford, Consumer

Patti Shevlin, Consumer Rae Ellen Leonard, Consumer

EXCUSED: Catherine Patterson-Valdez, LTCIC, Charles Levine, Seniors Commission

ABSENT: Toni Cassista, Consumer

STAFF: Francie Newfield, Gail Goudreau, Alma Martinez, Human Services Department

GUESTS: Ali Sprickler, Senior Field Representative to Assembly Member Bill Monning

- 1. CALL TO ORDER, AGENDA REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chair, Michael Molesky, called the meeting to order and April minutes were approved.
- 2. CORRESPONDENCE:** A folder of correspondence was available for review that the Commission received during the past month.
- 3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Per Commissioner Charles Stone, 36,000 people have died from swine flu. There have been no cases in Santa Cruz County and just a handful in the United States. Need to be very cautious about washing hands, preferably with soap and warm water. The Public Authority provides supplies to providers that include gloves and masks (during flu season). Chair Michael Molesky stated that Toni Cassista has submitted a letter of resignation.
- 4. PRESENTATION:** Ali Sprickler, Senior Field Representative to Assembly Member Bill Monning, provided general information on the state budget situation. As most of us know, the State General Fund budget for transportation, education, prisons, and human and health services are all facing major cuts. Specific cuts to Medi-Cal related programs were discussed (In-Home Supportive Services Program services and provider wages), Medi-Cal optional benefits (dental, podiatry, hearing aids, incontinence supplies, etc) at length. Dientes and Salud Para La Gente are sponsoring a press meeting on Saturday, May 9th, at Dominican Hospital to highlight proposed cuts. Assembly Member Bill Monning and other dignitaries will be present. The Commission hopes to have representation at the press release as well. Ali shared that if anyone has any questions regarding the budget processes or need special advocacy please contact the Assembly office. Assembly Member Monning and his staff are eager to assist constituents.
- 5. IHSS GENERAL OPERATIONS REPORTS: IHSS GENERAL OPERATIONS REPORTS:** Francie Newfield, Director of Adult & Long Term Care Division stated there will be changes to the share of cost calculations for some IHSS recipients as a result of the Governor's budget recommendation. This may result in a higher cost to some recipients. The State will be sending letters to the affected recipients regarding the changes.

Another budget matter affecting IHSS is that the State has proposed reducing its participation in IHSS hour wages of \$11.50 per hour down to \$9.50 per hour. The County is facing its own budget deficit and does not have the money to cover that difference. The proposed County Budget will be available on line by Tuesday May 5th and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on the same day. The County is losing positions in all departments. At the same time, there has been a 30% to 40% increase in applications for Medi-Cal, Food Stamps, and cash aid programs.

6. **IHSS PUBLIC AUTHORITY:** There has been concern with IHSS cases where recipient's care providers are requesting time card replacement going back sometimes several months or more. The IHSS Quality Assurance unit is concerned if recipients are receiving their authorized hours of services when timecards are submitted so late after those services should have been provided. The unit will be monitoring and working closely with the Fiscal department to confirm receipt of services. If providers are not turning in timesheets timely, it can also impend eligibility for provider medical benefits. The QA will be contacting consumers and providers who meet the criteria above.
 - A. **SENIOR NETWORK SERVICES (SNS) REGISTRY STATUS REPORT:**
267 providers are active on the Registry. Requests for new providers have been down. Most people have providers or have been able to find them on their own.
 - B. **PUBLIC AUTHORITY WEBSITE REVIEW:** The program has received very good comments about the new and improved website. Information about the swine flu was recently added to the homepage. Public Authority staff will receive training on how to do their own editing and updates of the website over the summer.
 - C. **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**
Provider Insurance Update – Approximately 400 providers are receiving benefits now. The Union Health Trust Fund folks seem to be working hard to satisfy everyone.

Provider Training: Per Gail Goudreau the provider training is going very well. Gail is working with the trainer to begin planning and scheduling of new curriculum for the fast approaching new fiscal year.
7. **IHSS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP:**
Vacancies: Two consumer openings, one provider opening.
8. **NEWSLETTER WORKGROUP:** No report.
9. **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:** Budget Updates; SEIU Advocacy Efforts
10. **NEXT MEETING:** Friday, June 5, 2009, 1:30 pm-3: 30 pm - 1400 Emeline Avenue, Building K, Room # 206.
11. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Michael Molesky, adjourned meeting at 3:05 pm.

(Minutes recorded by Alma Martinez and respectfully submitted by Gail Goudreau, Senior Analyst, IHSS Public Authority Manager.)