

**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MAY 20, 2009
Minutes**

Attendees: Koleen Biegacki, Francisco Godoy, Melissa Kinley, Antoinette Lopez-Coles, Kristen Lyall, Stormaliza Powmacwizalord, Bari Schlesinger and Cordia Wade

Absent: DeAnga Hills and Michele Stuart

Staff & Guests: Rena Baker (Guest), Erica Bland (SEIU), Denise Blockmon (Ms. Lyall's Caregiver), Rochelle Culmsee (Interpreter), Emma Ebeling (PA), Martha Garcia (Ms. Lopez-Coles' Caregiver), Pat Leichty (PA), Gail Simmons (Interpreter) and Rick Simonson (PA)

I. Call to Order:

Chair Lyall called the meeting to order at 1:20 PM. A quorum was present.

II. Introductions:

All Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

III. Consent Calendar:

- A. Agenda – The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made to accept the Agenda as presented. (Kinley/Biegacki). The motion passed.
- B. Minutes – The April 15, 2009 minutes were reviewed as presented. (Kinley/Wade). The motion passed.
- C. Chair's Report and Correspondence – There was a discussion about the Supported Life Conference being held on October 7-9, 2009 in Sacramento. Ms. Blockmon read an article from Capitol Weekly about "Feds Give State OK to Cut Home Healthcare Workers' Pay".

Chair Lyall said she has been at the County of Sacramento budget hearings for two days and that all departments, not just IHSS, is being cut to the bare bone. Ms. Biegacki said that every time budget reductions are made, the elderly and disabled are the first to receive cuts. Ms. Blockmon said it is not only disabled people who are being cut. Health care for pregnancy, the parks district and others are being cut because there is just not enough money. She said that only programs with grants from the Federal Government are still up and running.

Ms. Schlesinger said that when her IHSS reassessment was recently completed, 45 of her hours were cut.

IV. Reports

A. DHHS Senior and Adult Services – Ms. Bettis and Mr. Klopp were unable to attend due to an all day mandatory meeting.

B. SEIU-UHW – Erica Bland:

Ms. Bland informed the AC members that the union is still gearing up for a fight on IHSS wages. Next Wednesday, May 27, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, is Seniors and Disabled Day at the Capitol. There will be speakers from different coalitions and the legislature.

The union is attending County budget meetings. She said they have until June 1 to see if they can stop the cuts to IHSS wages.

A letter arrived today from the Obama Administration permitting the State of California to reduce the IHSS wages without impacting the State's stimulus funding revenue. Ms. Bland said she would have a report as soon as she has a chance to review the letter.

C. Public Authority – Rick Simonson:

Mr. Simonson apologized that Ms. Lynch was unable to attend today's meeting.

He provided an update on the budget and said \$187 million is being cut from the County's budget. The Public Authority has lost 1/3 of their staff in the last 1-1/2 years. One of the positions being lost next year is

Gwendolyn Savage. She does the annual and quarterly reports, web oversight, computer administration, and many projects. The other position the Public Authority is losing is a Registry Specialist. The loss of this position will delay turn-around times for clients who requests lists for new caregivers, caregivers who call in to update their information as well as the interview process for new potential caregivers.

Some good news is that the ARRA funding will hopefully be used to buffer the proposed wage reductions.

Ms. Kinley asked about the Safely Out packets that were to be given to clients when they receive their annual reassessment. Her son recently had his reassessment, and they did not receive a Safely Out kit. Mr. Simonson said that distribution is being handled by DHHS who should be able to provide an update at the next IHSSAC meeting.

Chair Lyall thanked the members who worked on the Grand Jury response as well as Ms. Larson and Ms. Cotta-Warren from the Public Authority for their help.

V. Committee Matters:

- A. CICA – Ms. Stuart was unable to attend the meeting so a report was not made.
- B. Education – The May 14, 2009 Education meeting was cancelled.
- C. Quality Assurance – The May 14, 2009 QA meeting was cancelled.
- D. Task Force - IHSSAC Response to the Grand Jury Report

Mr. Simonson said that the Advisory Committee's response to the Grand Jury Report is ready to be sent but approval is needed from the Committee. The Committee read the Grand Jury response and minor changes were suggested. A motion was made to accept the Advisory Committee's Grand Jury response with the changes. (Kinley/Wade). The motion was approved by all members present.

VI. New Business

Mr. Godoy asked about the training being provided to assist people to be more effective when they talk to the Legislature. He said he is unable to attend the morning session but will try to attend the afternoon. Ms. Lyall said she hopes someone from the Committee will be able to attend. A question was asked about whether there was any value for people attending these trainings. The general consensus of the members was that it is very important that the Legislature actually see people and understand the cost to the clients and caregivers.

Mr. Simonson informed the Committee that he had received an invoice for CICA dues and asked if the Committee wanted to continue its CICA membership. The Committee discussed and decided that they did want to continue. A motion was made to pay the dues out of this year's budget. (Biegacki/Kinley) The motion was approved.

The next *Caring Matters* newsletter will be out in June.

VII. Old Business – No report

VIII. Public Comments – None

IX. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM