

**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 20, 2008
Minutes**

Attendees: Francisco Godoy, Melissa Kinley, Kristen Lyall, Stormaliza Powmacwizalord, and Michele Stuart

Absent: Antoinette Lopez-Coles, Bari Schlesinger and Kay Thiem

Staff and Guests: Bert Bettis (IHSS), Denise Blockman (Caregiver to Ms. Lyall), Emma Ebeling (PA), Teresita Godoy (Caregiver to Mr. Godoy), Guy Klopp (IHSS), Pat Leichty (PA), Caleb Lopez (Interpreter), Kristen Mayotte (Interpreter), Gwendolyn Savage (PA), and Rick Simonson (PA)

I. Call to Order:

Chair Lyall called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. There was not a quorum present.

II. Introductions:

All committee members and guests introduced themselves.

III. Consent Calendar:

A. Agenda: The agenda was reviewed.

Ms. Lyall said they had planned to introduce Antoinette Lopez-Coles, who is a new member to the Advisory Committee, but she was unable to attend today's meeting.

Ms. Lyall provided refreshments and some of her father's homegrown tomatoes to thank everyone for hanging in there with her.

Ms. Lyall asked Mr. Simonson if there could be a ruling so the budget could be passed. Mr. Simonson advised Ms. Lyall that without a quorum, a vote could not be taken and today's meeting would be informational only. The Committee could discuss the minutes, but not approve them. Ms. Lyall asked if a vote could be done by phone and she was told no, a quorum must be at the meeting. Ms. Thiem is on vacation and Ms. Schlesinger who is out on medical leave, hopes to return within one-two months.

- B. Minutes: The minutes for the June 18, 2008 meeting were reviewed by the Committee. Ms. Lyall said that the minutes would have to be tabled due to lack of a quorum.

Ms. Stuart asked Mr. Klopp for an update on the report being prepared for the Board of Supervisors that was referred to on Page 7 of the June 18, 2008 minutes. Mr. Klopp advised her that it is still in the works.

- C. Chair's Report and Correspondence: Ms. Lyall reported that she attended the Safely Out press conference and it was well received. Gary Dietrich was at the conference and he offered to attend another meeting and give a presentation to the Advisory Committee about Citizen Voice if they are interested. Mr. Simonson told the Committee that Gary Dietrich is the Executive Director of Citizen Voice, an Advocacy Organization for the vulnerable, which provides non-partisan information about issues and candidates.

Mr. Godoy asked about Section VI, Committee Matters F, in the June 18, 2008 minutes where it is written that the Revised Budget for the Advisory Committee was accepted. Mr. Godoy asked why there was an Action Item on today's agenda for the Advisory Committee budget. Mr. Simonson responded that the budget that had been approved in the June 18, 2008 minutes pertained to a revision in the FY 07-08 budget. Mr. Simonson also said that today's agenda item refers to the FY 08-09 budget and unfortunately there was not a quorum present so it could

not be approved. Mr. Godoy thanked Mr. Simonson for the clarification.

IV. Reports:

A. DHHS Senior and Adult Services - Bert Bettis, Division Manager and Guy Klopp

Ms. Bettis said that the County is still waiting on the results of the State's budget and the proposed cuts in IHSS are still on the table.

Mr. Klopp reported that recruitment notices looking for new Advisory Committee members will soon be printed on caregiver paychecks.

Mr. Klopp said that about 12,000 letters will be mailed to IHSS recipients regarding the new Rancho Cordova location and about reassignment of social workers. Approximately 19,000 plus Safely Out packets are being distributed to different offices. The packets will be delivered to IHSS recipients by the social workers on their yearly assessment visits. A question was asked about people who had already been visited this year and when they would get their packets. Ms. Bettis said those people would have to wait until next year's visit by their social worker because there was not enough staff to deliver them and it would be too expensive to mail.

Ms. Powmacwizalord discussed her problems with changing doctors. She said that with changes in Medi-Cal, she is unable to see her regular specialist. She noted that her previous doctor was aware of medical issues such as allergies and antibiotics and she stated that disabled people require the stability of having the same doctor. Ms. Powmacwizalord also said that she is having issues with payments not being made to her doctors. She said at times she has been told she does not have Medi-Cal so she cannot see her doctor.

Ms. Bettis responded that there may be a couple of things going on regarding Medi-Cal. One is that since Medi-Cal payments

have been reduced by 10%, some doctors will not see Medi-Cal patients any longer. Another issue is that IHSS services are connected to active Medi-Cal. If Medi-Cal is discontinued, IHSS services will also be discontinued.

Ms. Bettis said that paperwork for Medi-Cal eligibility certifications must be filled out promptly, even though the packets are very thick. Applicants will need to provide verification of required documents. Medi-Cal is not a social services program but rather an eligibility program. However, Medi-Cal eligibility does impact IHSS services.

Ms. Lyall suggested that once all the paperwork has been completed, people should make copies for their records. Ms. Bettis suggested that the Advisory Committee may want to have someone from Medi-Cal attend a meeting and give a presentation.

Ms. Blockmon said she had changed her W-4 in April. She is not sure if the changes have been made. She was advise to call payroll and ask them to check for her.

Mr. Godoy asked about his caregiver mailing her timesheet in late and Mr. Klopp said he would be happy to talk with him after the meeting.

B. SEIU – The union was not in attendance.

C. Public Authority – Rick Simonson

Mr. Simonson said that Ms. Lynch was unable to attend the meeting but she sends her regards. He said that CAPA sends out registry surveys twice a year and the responses about caregiver's arrival times and tasks being completed were all good. A handout summarized the survey information.

Mr. Simonson said that copies of County Fiscal Letter regarding AC funding were distributed to IHSSAC members. He stated that during the first 7 to 8 years, it was not well defined how the Advisory Committee could spend their

allocation. However, the letter specifies how the money can be spent and spells out additional limitations. Allowable stipends are a county by county decision. In Sacramento, membership on the committee, per its charter, is a volunteer position. Journey Works brochures may no longer be a viable expense for the Committee. IHSSAC funds may not be used for caregiver or consumer education, such as the Elaine Whitefeather presentation or Core Class graduations. Mr. Simonson said that they would look into the Public Authority paying for the graduation.

Ms. Lyall stated that as the Education Sub-Committee Chair, she feels there is a need to have the Core Class Graduation. Mr. Simonson suggested that it be brought up at the next Education Sub-Committee meeting.

Mr. Simonson said that the First and Second Quarterly Reports for 2008 are included in everyone's packet. If there are any questions, please feel free to e-mail him or bring them up at the next AC meeting. These reports also go to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Simonson discussed the PA budget. A proposed budget is done in June and then in September the PA prepares a final budget. At proposed budget, two PA staff positions were cut. Also, one of the two newsletters, *Authority Speaks* and *Caring Matters*, had to be cut. Consequently, they are being combined and the name *Caring Matters* will continue. The new issues will include 4 additional pages. Only one copy will be mailed to each household.

Mr. Simonson said that the PA anticipated \$30,000 in rollover funding would be available from FY 07-08 to FY 08-09. However, only \$23,000 was actually rolled over. The bottom line is an additional 1/2 vacant social worker position will be unfunded in the FY 08-09 budget. He said that the Public Authority is working with a very lean budget since nearly \$600,000 in funding has been lost in the past two years.

Ms. Powmacwizalord suggested that with all the budget cuts, maybe some of the meetings could be done by instant messenger on the computer. Ms. Lyall said that may not be practical for everyone.

Mr. Simonson said an IHSS task force was authorized by the Board. The IHSSAC Chair, Ms. Lyall, wrote a letter to the County Executive indicating that someone from the AC act as an observer on the task force but that request was not authorized. It was explained that this is an internal look at IHSS.

V. Committee Matters:

- A. CICA - Ms. Stuart provided an update on the CICA calls. People are encouraged to call their legislators about how cuts will affect the IHSS population and their caregivers. There are concerns that the Democrats may cave in. Assembly Bills and Senate Bills are not moving at this time because of the budget. There is a lot of regional work going on. There is a California State Legislative web-site that people can log onto, type in their zip code and find their district.

Ms. Stuart asked that people look at AB 1674. This Bill authorizes five pilot projects allowing recipients to choose an agency provider. The Advisory Committees in each county will oversee the pilot programs.

- B. Education – Nothing to report.
- C. Quality Assurance – Mr. Simonson said there was no action items from Quality Assurance and the minutes had been distributed to the AC members.
- D. Finance – The Action Item was not voted on due to lack of a quorum.

VI. Old Business - None

VII. New Business – Mr. Godoy shared information from the California Tax Reform Association which was passed out.

VIII. Public Comments:

Ms. Powmacwizalord said that she went to the Men’s Health Seminar with a neighbor. She noted that a lot of women take care of men and do not know a lot about men’s health issues. Ms. Lyall thanked her for that information and suggested that this issue be discussed at the Education Sub-Committee.

Ms. Stuart wanted to add for recruiting purposes, the possibility of having a table at the State Fair. She could also pass out flyers regarding funding issues. Thursday is “Fun for All” and that would be a good day to recruit consumers for the Advisory Committee. Ms. Powmacwizalord said she also plans on attending. Mr. Simonson asked if they needed flyers but Ms. Stuart said that it would be easier to pass out their business cards to anyone who may be interested.

IX. Adjournment – Ms. Lyall adjourned the meeting at 2:40 PM.