

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes

July 16, 2014

Attendees: Denise Blockmon, Bob Blymyer, Francisco Godoy, Leoma Lee, Chandra Livingston-Blanks, Stormaliza Powmacwizalord, Carolyn Rose, and Joe Samora

Absent: Antoinette Lopez-Coles, and Jacqueline Spagner

Staff & Guests: Sandy Deutsch, (IHSS), Andrea Hassanen-Payton (Provider/SEIU-UHW Executive Committee member), Josh Holt (ASL Interpreter), Deanna Jekayinfa (PA), Caleb Lopez (ASL Interpreter), Susan Louder (Home Health RN), Teresita Perez, Rick Simonson (PA), and Michael (Taps) Taporco

I. Called to Order at 1:05 by Chair Leoma Lee

II. Introductions

III. Consent Calendar

A. Agenda: Approved (Livingston/Blockmon)

B. Minutes: Approved (Godoy/Rose)

C. Chair's Report: None.

IV. Reports

A. Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers (SEIU-UHW): Andrea Hassanen-Payton (Provider/SEIU-UHW Executive Committee member) – Supreme Court Case Harris v. Quinn ruled dues may not be assessed on IHSS care providers in Illinois. The union believes that because it was upheld in Illinois that the decision's ruling will sweep through the country. SEIU-UHW is concerned that the impact from Harris v. Quinn will decrease IHSS member dues by 15%.

B. DHHS-IHSS Sandy Deutsch, IHSS Supervisor – IHSS will be holding a program meeting to inform staff about the new overtime regulations, new time sheets and change in hours.

The county still has a hiring freeze, which may end in July instead of after the final September budget. IHSS staff interviewed 6 Spanish Language Special skills

candidates, but due to the freeze we are unable to make any offers. The Spanish Special Skills social workers stated that they were willing to take a non-special skills assignment, broadening the applicant pool. Staff interviewed for one Vietnamese Special Skills worker, three non-special skills social workers, 3-4 intake social workers and 3-4 appeals/hearing social workers. These positions are funded and should be filled once the hiring freeze ends.

Debbi Thomson will be writing a proposal for additional staff needed to deal with implementation of overtime for IHSS caregivers.

C. Public Authority, Acting Executive Director Rick Simonson –

Rick gave all members a copy of the new IHSS Advisory Committee brochure.

There are no new developments from the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) report last month. Several Nationwide organizations are asking the Department of Labor to slow implementation of the new regulations beyond 1/1/15. The labor department responded by stating, “We will let you know.”

Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI), now called “CalMedi Connect,” requires mandatory enrollment of Medi-Cal/Medicare beneficiaries. This impacts only eight pilot counties (not Sacramento). Three consumer organizations in Los Angeles County are asking for an injunction against mandatory enrollment into CCI. At the conclusion of enrollment of a county’s beneficiaries into CalMedi Connect, bargaining for IHSS wages and benefits will shift to a statewide IHSS Public Authority.

SEIU-UHW Ballot Initiative which required 75 hours of training for IHSS Providers and increased wages for providers every time there is an increase in the California minimum wage did not get enough ballot signatures for the 2014 or 2016 November ballots.

Sonoma County Case – IHSS provider Guerrero sued Sonoma County and the Sonoma IHSS Public Authority for unpaid IHSS wages. The Sonoma County Superior Court denied the claim against the County/IHSS Public Authority indicating the IHSS recipient is the lawful employer. Guerrero appealed to the California Supreme Court which returned the case to the lower court introducing the concept of co-employers. Rather than retry the case, a settlement was reached with Ms. Gurrero without stipulation of County/IHSS Public Authority employer obligations.

At the next IHSS meeting (8/20/14) the 2014-15 IHSS Advisory Committee budget needs to be established.

Webinar information forwarded to IHSS Advisory Committee members are optional, not mandatory.

Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) – Federal regulatory changes require that overtime be paid to IHSS caregivers beginning January 1, 2015. Caregivers will also be paid for travel time between recipient A and recipient B. Must be a direct trip with no stops in between for non-work-related activities. Travel has a 7 hour per week cap which is expected to be over and above a consumer's authorized hours. Caregivers will also be paid for time at medical for appointments if the appointments are brief. The need to monitor hours on a weekly basis will require a new IHSS timesheet format.

Rick will not be in attendance at the September IHSS meeting.

V. Committee Matters

A. California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA)

The June 25 Core Class Graduation recognized 31 IHSS caregivers who completed six or more core classes in the last year. Marge Dobson, a former hospice nurse, provided encouragement to IHSS caregivers about the difference they make in consumer's lives. Leoma Lee (IHSS Advisory Committee Chair) spoke to IHSS caregivers about the importance of education. Pat Brazil, Chief of Staff to Don Notolli, also attended.

VI. New Business –Officers election. Denise Blockmon removed her name from the ballot for chair and vice-chair, leaving only the following candidates: Chair: Chandra Livingston Blanks; Vice-Chair: Leoma Lee. Bob Blymer made a motion to elect Chandra Livingston-Blanks as Chair and Leoma Lee as Vice Chair. (Blymer/Blockmon). Unanimous vote.

VII. Old Business – Bob is still pursuing free advertisement for IHSS Advisory Committee vacancies on RT and Light rail.

VIII. Public Comment – Suzanne Louder (Home Health RN) believes IHSS is a valuable service and is pleased to find out there are other care options for the elderly and persons with disabilities. She is working with pediatric youth who 40 years ago would not have had the opportunity to live independent lives they can now lead due to better understanding of people with disabilities. CMs. Louder is concerned because Medi-Cal no longer pays for the 7.0 hour evaluation need to get consumers into long-term services and supports programs.

IHSS Advisory Committee members suggested agencies that might have resources for Ms. Louder include: Disability Rights of California, El Hogar and IHSS In-Home Operations (IHO waiver program).

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.