

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Draft Minutes

June 19, 2013

Attendees: Denise Blockmon, Bob Blymyer, Francisco Godoy, Leoma Lee, Antoinette Lopez-Coles, Chandra Livingston-Blanks, Stormaliza Powmacwizalord, Carolyn Rose, and Cordia Wade

Absent:

Staff & Guests: Sandy Deutsch (IHSS), Deanna Jekayinfa (PA), Caleb Lope (ASL Interpreter), Rick Simonson (PA), Ryan Sullivan (ASL Interpreter) and Michael (Taps) Taporco

- I. Call to Order 1:08 by Leoma Lee
- II. Introductions
- III. Consent Calendar
 - A. Agenda: Blockmon/Wade - Approved
 - B. Minutes: Blockmon/Wade- Approved
 - C. Chair's Report: The 10th Annual Capital Action Day was on May 22, 2013. Leoma Lee, Chandra Livingston-Blanks and Stormaliza Powmacwizalord from the IHSS Advisory Committee attended. About 3,000 total people showed up for the event. There was discussion about the importance of keeping the needs of the disability community fresh on the legislators' minds.
- IV. Reports
 - A. In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) - Sandy Deutsch, Supervisor: Notice of Actions (NOA's) went out for 8% cuts effective July 1, 2013. The change will be an increase of 4.4% on top of the current 3.6%. Effective July 1, 2014 the 8% cuts will be reduced to 7%. These cuts are in lieu of previously approved budget cuts that called for a 20% reduction in IHSS services and other program rollbacks. The hours for recipients with unmet need will first be reduced from the unmet service hours. It will be the IHSS recipient's responsibility to decide which services can be reduced. Because of this reduction, the Service Employee International Union-United Healthcare Workers (SEIU-UHW) affiliated health care trust is lowering the eligibility threshold from 85 paid IHSS hours to 81 paid IHSS hours per month.

Sacramento County has 140 recipients who have unmet need. Unmet need are service hours a recipient needs but exceed the maximum available hours.

Currently, the county is under a hiring freeze which won't be lifted until September 2013. IHSS has posted all vacant social worker positions, and are currently interviewing 16 applicants for the vacant 11 positions with the plan to fill them as soon as the hiring freeze is lifted.

When there is an allegation of inappropriateness by a provider the recipient should inform their social worker as well as IHSS Public Authority registry if the provider was referred from there.

IHSS has a new Quality Assurance (QA) unit. One of their responsibilities includes going out to the home and demonstrating to the recipient and the provider how to complete the timesheet.

Sacramento County is still scheduled to go live on CMIPS II November 4, 2013. September will begin IHSS CMIPS training for Sacramento County and October staff will be able to practice in the CMIPS II system. Statewide - all timesheets will be sent to a central processing facility in Chico, CA. Currently, CMIPS II is rejecting timesheets that do not have signature. Other timesheet errors are corrected at the Chico facility whenever possible. Some of the Sacramento IHSS staff has been to the Chico payroll facility. If a recipient has more than one provider, the first timesheet received will be paid first. If there are any hours left over, the other provider will be paid the balance if they have claimed those hours. Soon IHSS will be using all floating hours; if a recipient desires to have fixed hours, the recipient will need to submit a declaration.

Payroll staff who have been to the Chico timesheet processing facility will be invited to present at the next IHSSAC meeting.

There are currently no plans to eliminate positions when IHSS Payroll moves to Chico processing center. Instead payroll staff will take care of any rejected forms from Chico payroll and perform other essential IHSS duties.

- B. Public Authority, Acting Executive Director Rick Simonson – June 26, 2013 at 5:30 pm is Core Class Graduation at 3701 Branch Center Road. Leoma Lee will be speaking on behalf of the IHSS Advisory Committee (IHSSAC). Other IHSSAC members are welcome to attend. SEIU-UHW donated \$500 to pay for food, beverages and small gifts for graduating providers.

As previously reported, the IHSS Public Authority offered Spanish language Provider Enrollment Classes once a week during the month of May. Attendance was very low (three at one class, one at another and zero at the three remaining classes). Instead of regularly scheduled classes, orientations will be available in Spanish, Chinese and Western Armenian as needed.

Negotiations with the union have concluded effective as soon as possible the IHSS wage in Sacramento County will increase by \$0.25 from \$10.40 to \$10.65 per hour, On January 1, 2014 the IHSS wage will increase to \$10.80 per hour. The contribution to health benefits will continue to be \$0.80 per paid IHSS hour. Because of the additional .4.4% in hours reduction, the hours to qualify and maintain medical benefits have been reduced from 85 to 81 hours per month.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is still considering the change in federal labor regulations that will remove the overtime exemption currently in place for caregivers. The OMB cannot change the proposed regulations, but only accept or decline the proposed changes.

The IHSS spending report is in your packet. After paying any mileage expenses IHSS Advisory Committee will have a balance remaining. There is not enough money to pay for a newsletter but could pay part of the newsletter costs (newsletters cost \$10,000 to print and mail).

Motion to move \$2000 to IHSS PA from the IHSS AC budget to offset the IHSS Newsletter. (Wade/Blymyer). Motion was amended to move the balance of the IHSSAC budget to pay the cost of the IHSS Newsletter for Fiscal Year 12/13. (Rose/Godoy), 6 for 2 oppose. Following adoption of the amended motion, the IHSSAC unanimously approved the motion to use remaining IHSSAC funds to pay newsletter costs.

Statewide Public Authority/Bargaining: San Mateo is expected to be the first county to fall under the statewide bargaining after March 2013. San Mateo is the first of the 8 pilot counties to register providers under the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI). It is expected most other counties will move bargaining in January 2015. Counties will be able to determine if they will continue to maintain an IHSS Public Authority or move those services to IHSS or if they will contract out for those services. Additional legislative action will be needed to bring Sacramento into the CCI, which triggers the movement to statewide bargaining.

V. Committee Matters

A. CICA – Discussed the CCI. CMIPS II transition is moving forward with significantly fewer errors than experienced in the pilot counties. Some

counties do not assess for unmet need, so this creates a disparity when cuts to IHSS services are implemented.

VI. New Business

- A. Election of Officers: - Motion was made in lieu of a nominating committee to decide among the members present at the meeting to elect a new chair and vice chair. Blymer/Wade (unanimous). A motion was made to re-elect the current chair and vice chair back to their current positions. There was a question if Stormaliza could run for a seat. Because Stormaliza's term with the IHSSAC has expired and she is holding over as a member until the vacancy is filled, the determination was it would be inappropriate for her to be considered for chair or vice chair. Unanimous support for continuing current chair and vice chair for fiscal year 2013-14.

VII Old Business

- A. The language on the advertisement for new members was reviewed and if a title is not suggested in a few days, Bob will choose a title and begin the process of getting free advertisement; such as Regional Transit and Para-Transit. Michael Taporco has already taken the information about the IHSSAC from the Caring Matters newsletter and put it out on Craigslist and Facebook.

VIII Public Comment

- A. None

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.