

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

March 17, 2010
1:00 - 3:00 pm.

Attendees: Koleen Biegacki, Francisco Godoy, Melissa Kinley, Kristen Lyall, Stormaliza Powmacwizalord, Carolyn Rose and Cordia Wade

Absent: DeAnga Hills, Antoinette Lopez-Coles, Donald Prange (resigned)

Staff & Guests: Denise Blockmon, Rolando Gutierrez (SEIU-UHW), Deanna Jekayinfa (PA), Bernadette Lynch (SAS), Mary Pham (Interpreter), Rick Simonson (PA), Marcella Rojas (Interpreter) Laura West (DA Fraud Task Force),

I. Call to Order:

Lyle (chair) called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. A quorum was present

II. Introductions

III. Consent Calendar

A. Agenda

B. Minutes (review/accept)

Motion was made by Wade, 2nd by Godoy – unanimous approved.

C. Chair's Report & Correspondence

Upcoming Conferences:

- o Tuesday March 23, (10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) Teachers and Role models, State 1507 21st Street Suite 210
- o Protecting the "I" in IHSS – April 16, 2010, Napa
- o June 11, 12, 13 – 2010 – Double Tree, Sacramento, CA, Advocates are Leaders Presented by: People First[®] of California & Supported Life Institute.

IV. Reports

A. DHHS Senior and Adult Services, Bernadette Lynch, Division

For fiscal year 2010-11 budget there was an instruction to prepare a budget with \$500,000 reduction in local funding which equals \$3.3 million in total funds. A second cut instruction was received for another \$500,000 in local funding reductions equals \$8 million in total funds. The philosophical approach toward cuts was to: protect people, ensure clients receive and continue to receive services and ensure providers get paid. The budget also had to include COLAs equities, and raises. IHSS will lose 20.2 caseload carrying social workers with 57 remaining workers carrying 425 cases each. The Quality Assurance, Pediatric Priority/ Screening units as well as the Fraud Social Workers are slated to be eliminated. SAS can expect a 46% loss of administrative staff, including:

two program managers, one secretary, two planners, one program specialist, one senior office assistant, one administrative services officer, one account clerk.

277 positions are being deleted from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS): 58 positions in Behavioral Health, 8 positions in Administration, 66 positions in Public Health Education and Promotion, 41 in Children Protective Services, and 33 in Primary Health Services. Behavioral Health will eliminate all regional support teams and create a county clinic. DHHS will no longer fund the vans which transport folks to Rancho Cordova Community Center, the Network of Care or bottled water services. DHHS is looking department wide to see which leases are soft (can back out of lease) or hard (can't get out of lease).

IHSS is trying to get a grant to purchase netbooks for social workers. Outcome would be more informative, more efficient notes from workers and better services to clients. The notebooks would also reduce redundancy in the workload. Timesheet drop boxes will be eliminated on April 22, 2010. All timesheets come with a self addressed envelope (providers must pay postage). Most timesheets are processed within eight days, but the length of time varies to some degree due to state furlough days, and holidays.

IHSS will pilot a newly mandated program to fingerprint IHSS recipients. Eight social workers will receive fingerprinting training and a portable fingerprinting device. Social workers will then begin fingerprinting IHSS recipients. Fingerprinted information will be downloaded and stored but will not be matched with fingerprints on timesheets.

IHSS will no longer be able to meet its state mandates. Ideas from the IHSS Advisory Committee are welcome on how to deliver services with reduced staff.

B. SEIU-UHW - Rolando Gutierrez: Sending out mailers in English, Russian, Spanish, Hmong – advising caregivers that timesheets should be mailed as soon as they are completed. The recently negotiated labor agreement will only be distributed to those caregivers upon request. IHSS state budget hearings are March 18, 2010, 9:30 a.m., room 5019 at the State Capitol

C. Public Authority, Executive Director, Rick Simonson: A report (attached) has information about the status of provider enrollment. About 25% of caregivers have been seen with 15% having completed all requirements. Postcards and letters are being mailed to recipients encouraging prompt completion of the newly mandated requirements. June 30, 2010 is the deadline for current providers to complete provider enrollment and it is important that caregivers not wait until the last minute or the run the risk of not getting paid. . DOJ report results can take up to 30 days, so providers really need to have their Live Scan completed by the beginning of June. Provider enrollment extended hours are added on the 4th Saturdays (9 am – 1 pm) and 4th Mondays (5 pm – 7 pm). Automated calls are reminding caregivers of the need to complete provider enrollment.

D. District Attorney's Office – Laura West: Obtaining recipient finger prints is of little value. It is difficult to get usable print images and it will not help in fighting fraud.

The courts have ruled that only the crimes listed in Welfare and Institutions (W&I) code can be used to prohibit someone from being an IHSS caregiver. If further criteria are to be applied, they must be added into the W&I code. Fraud Investigations typically begins with the caregiver timesheet (Sacramento is fortunate to have imaged timesheets and is only one of three counties in the state who do; other counties must look manually for timesheet documents). In meeting with other counties, it is clear there are differences in how fraud is investigated. There are no standardized measurements.

The Fraud Task Force is working with medical community to provide education about the importance of IHSS program and how to complete the 669 form "Request for Medical Information." It is important that medical staff to evaluate client before signing off on paperwork, physicians should not complete 669 forms unless they are sure about client's illness or limitations. Social workers are concerned that Physicians may be charging for completion of 669 forms.

Handout: "How Much Fraud: Some Indicators" (attached). Concern was raised that one statement says there is 32% fraud rate when that number is a subset of a much larger group.

District Attorney has recovered approximately \$40,000 from prosecutions since September 2009 and has approximately \$100,000 potential revenue pending at the Department of Revenue and Recovery. The DA Task Force's main goals are to prevent, train, stop and limit fraud opportunity.

- V. CICA Conference Reports:
Decided to table the conference reports and have each attendee turn in their written report.

- VI. Committee Matters
 - A. CICA
Regional Conference in June
 - B. Quality Assurance
 - Response to IHSS Task Force Background Check Recommendations
IHSS Task Force wants to implement standards to preclude IHSS care givers from providing services forever after violent felony crime convictions, 5 years after non-violent felony crime conviction and 2 years following misdemeanor crime convictions. The IHSS Advisory Committee needs to weigh in if this is an appropriate standard. Someone should attend tomorrow's meeting.

 - Motion (Biegacki/Godoy), unanimous approval: Request county counsel opinion to determine if there is a legal basis to have a different standard at the county level than state standards in the IHSS program." Other concerns to be addressed are: no appeal process, who is considered a family member and mandatory education.

 - C. Quarterly Report on Fraud – not considered

VII. New Business
Tabled to next meeting.

IX. Old Business
Tabled to next meeting

X. Public Comment: Members of the Audience - 2 Minutes Each. None

XI. Adjournment: 3:15

The meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Requests for interpreting services, assistive listening devices, or other considerations should be made through the IHSS Public Authority at (916) 875-4057 no later than five working days prior to the meeting.

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