

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO  
IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 15, 2010

**Attendees:** Francisco Godoy, Melissa Kinley, Antoinette Lopez-Coles, Stormaliza Powmacwizalord, Carolyn Rose and Cordia Wade

**Absent:** Koleen Biegacki, DeAnga Hills

**Staff & Guests:** Kerry Bernard (DA), Elizabeth Foster-Ward (SAS), Renita Graves, (Caretaker), Deanna Jekayinfa (PA), Marcella Rojas (Sign language interpreter), Jessie Martinez, (Sign Language Interpreter), Rick Simonson (PA), Gary Wagg (DA), and Laura West (DA)

I. Call to Order 1:05 p.m. by chair, Melissa Kinley.

II. Introductions

III. Consent Calendar

A. Agenda reviewed/accepted

B. Minutes review/accepted

C. Chair's Report & Correspondence:

Surveyed board to see who would like to attend the Annual CICA conference October 22-24, in San Jose, CA. The following IHSSAC members are planning to attend:

- Melissa Kinely
- Cordia Wade
- Stormaliza Powmacwizalord
- Antoinette Lopez-Coles
- Carolyn Rose

A reminder: all IHSSAC members are required to provide a timely written report after attending any conferences paid for by the committee.

IV. Reports

A. DHHS Senior and Adult Services, Elizabeth Foster-Ward,

On August 20<sup>th</sup> all intake backlog (1500+ cases) were divided and assigned to all case caring social workers. Effective September 1<sup>st</sup> all backlogged cases were assigned. IHSS/APS has 2 intake units receiving 300-400 cases per month. During the next 30 days all case worker telephones will have a phone message that says that the staff member is not available as he or she is working on a 30-day special project.

Lawsuit is still pending against functional index less than 4.0 would eliminate a large population of recipients from the IHSS program.

- B. Public Authority, Acting Executive Director, Rick Simonson:  
Still waiting on California State Budget. State may have to issue IOU's in October 2010. There has been a slow down on payments to counties from the State of California.

Provider Enrollment – 2,650 providers who had not completed enrollment were identified and sent postcard reminders. Of those: 1,700 had completed a SOC 426, 1,400 had completed a SOC 846, 1,325 had verified their ID/Social Security Card with IHSSPA, and 650 have completed the DOJ process.

IHSSPA is asking existing providers to complete the enrollment process by November 1, 2010 because sometimes it takes 2 or more months for IHSSPA to receive DOJ background check results. Also, we are unsure if providers who miss the December 31, 2010 deadline will receive retroactive pay. Automated calls to providers who have not completed re-enrollment process are being made

The IHSS Public Authority is looking into a telephone system that has an answering cue. In essence, callers would be on hold once all available lines are being answered.

November 9, 2010, is Caregiver Recognition Month. IHSS Advisory Committee members are invited to attend.

IHSSPA will be going into negotiation with SEIU-UHW to discuss wage impact due to reduction of FMAP (federal participation) and benefits. Negotiating sessions are scheduled for October 12 and 27, 2010. Kaiser health premiums will increase by \$51.00 per person per month. There are several options to compensate for the increase.

- A. Decrease the number of providers who receive benefits
- B. Change to a different medical plan.
- C. Cost containment within the current plan (for example, increase the co-pay for medical appointments)
- D. County/IHSS increase funding for medical benefits
- E. Providers' contribution to benefits increase (currently \$15.00 per month)
- F. Or a combination of all

A decision needs to be made by mid November to hold open enrollment in December.

There is currently a 2½ to 3 year waiting list to receive benefits (1,500 on wait list). There is only enough money to cover 3,409 providers' monthly for medical benefits.

There were 206 providers who were eligible to receive health benefits open enrollment materials, but did not during regular open enrollment. We will do a special invite for these 206 missed providers. Any of the missed providers who apply will be put on the waiting list in the place where they would have been if their application had been received during regular open enrollment.

The injunction is still in place and only 3 crimes continue to prevent applicants from being IHSS providers.

Four CSUS interns have begun working at the IHSSPA: 3 bachelor level and 1 masters level.

- C. IHSS Fraud Task Force, Laura West,  
Provided a PowerPoint presentation (and handouts) on DA IHSS Fraud Task Force's first year of operations..
- I. Identifying and Analyzing the Issues: Determine what type of fraud is occurring and how the fraud occurs? What can be done to stop fraud in IHSS?; and; what changes will need to be statewide? Types of fraud include: Jail or Death cases, SNF/Hospital Cases, Recipient = Provider, ID theft to participate in program, Concealing "able and available", spouse, exaggerated/fabricated claim of need; Falsifying employment to enter PEDS, Elder and dependant adult abuse/neglect. Before the current changes in IHSS fraud was easier because the IHSS is an Honor system and there are no checks and balances for the provider or recipient.
  - II. How Much Fraud?: IHSS fraud is hard to measure because there are no check and balances the program is based on the honor system. In fiscal year 09/10 1026 fraud referrals were reviewed. Jail updates (last 7 months) from CUTE system (Case Update & Tracking Eligibility). 507 hits resulting in 181 fraud referrals equaling \$164,737, 17-19% from county general fund = \$28,005 - \$31,300.
  - III. Prevention, Detection & Prosecution: Providing training, IHSS social work presentations, community outreach presentation, Law Enforcement outreach, Medical community outreach, Communication and partnership with Allies (Public Authority, IHSS, APS etc., Publicized deterrents.
  - IV. Results & Statistics: 60 Criminal cases filed against with total fraud dollars of \$779,558 (includes Child Action and SSA Fraud), IHSS Fraud totals \$522,907, County amount 17% -19% \$88,894 - \$99,352., 40 defendants sentenced, \$37,616 recovered in pre-plea IHSS restitution (17-19% = \$6,395 - \$7,147); Court ordered restitution \$213,230, (17-19%) = \$36,249 - \$40,514; Social Security

restitution \$113,070; Child Action fraud (case pending) \$143, 581. One time early detection savings \$15, 698 for 37 cases (17-19% = \$2,669-\$2,983); Early detection savings \$62, 945 for 71 cases (17-19% = \$10,701 - \$11,960), extrapolated 12 mo. = \$755,340; (17-19% = \$128,408 - \$143-515). Fraud recovery desk statistics 3-10 to 6-10, (Fraud/Over Payments < \$1,000): Total overpayment (172 letters mailed) = \$69, 737. Actual amount recovered \$28, 528 (41% of total due), Agreement to repay - \$17, 565; Total of recovered amount plus scheduled payments is 66% of total due or \$46, 093. There has been an 8% decrease of IHSS expenses which may be related to the changes in provider enrollment as well as the fraud task force..

V. Committee Matters

A. CICA

CICA conference call discussed free background checks – not expanded on. DOJ – scrub back if other convictions into play, perhaps re-checks will be free.

B. Finance Subcommittee

a. Adopted 2010-11 budget in amount of \$52,069 (attached). Cordia made motion, Antoinette Lopez-Coles second, all in favor.

VII. New Business

Tabled to next meeting

IX. Old Business (none)

X. Public Comment: Members of the Audience - 2 Minutes Each (none)

XI. Adjourn – 3:05 pm

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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