

**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 18, 2009
Minutes**

Attendees: Koleen Biegacki, Francisco Godoy, DeAnga Hills, Melissa Kinley, Kristen Lyall, Stormaliza Powmacwizalord, Bari Schlesinger and Cordia Wade

Absent: Antoinette Lopez-Coles and Michele Stuart

Staff & Guests: Denise Blockmon (Ms. Lyall's Caregiver), Cari Carter (Interpreter), Emma Ebeling (PA), Teresita Godoy, (Mr. Godoy's Caregiver), Pat Hebrand (Ms. Schlesinger's Caregiver), Guy Klopp (IHSS), Pat Leichty (PA), Bernadette Lynch (PA), Alexis McMannis (Interpreter), Gwendolyn Savage (PA), Rick Simonson (PA), and Trevon (Guest)

I. Call to Order:

Chair Lyall called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM. A quorum was present.

II. Introductions:

All Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

III. Consent Calendar:

- A. Agenda - The agenda for the February 18, 2009 meeting was accepted as presented. (Wade/Godoy).
- B. Minutes – The January 21, 2009 minutes were reviewed. Ms. Wade requested a correction to the January 21, 2009 minutes on page 3. Instead of reading “Ms. Wade asked how the battle between UHW and International affects IHSS and the Public Authority” she would like it to state: “Her greater concern is how the union battles would affect the consumer.” This was addressed by Ms. Lynch who said it should have no impact on IHSS consumers. The minutes were approved with changes. (Hills/Wade)

- C. Chair's Report and Correspondence - Ms. Lyall received an e-mail from Mr. Simonson regarding a request from Ms. Powmacwizalord asking if we could provide interpreters for a social event she would like to attend. Ms. Lyall said she had done some research on the event and although it sounds interesting, it does not have anything to do with IHSS or the Advisory Committee so the Committee cannot pay for interpreters.

Ms. Lyall received an e-mail from "Tenants First" and she will forward information via e-mail to the Committee by the end of the week.

IV. Reports:

- A. DHSS Senior and Adult Services, Guy Klopp:

Mr. Klopp said that Ms. Bettis was unable to attend today's meeting.

Mr. Klopp provided an update on the budget. IHSS is losing 32 positions, including 17 case carrying social workers. At this time, all 32 positions are slated to go to CPS. IHSS is asking for volunteers to relocate and they will then use reverse seniority if people have to be moved involuntarily. Positions will be moved by the middle of March.

At the State level, the Senate still has not taken action. He said the last information he had received on provider rollbacks was for \$9.50 an hour, and \$.60 for benefits. There is money in the Stimulus Package to help fill some shortfalls in money allocated for provider wages for this year and next. There are additional hearings scheduled for March 3, 2009, which should not affect IHSS, but probably Probation, the Sheriff Department and the DA's Office.

The budget for 2009/2010 is being reviewed at this time and Mr. Klopp said IHSS will have to be prepared for possible additional cuts for the next budget year.

Ms. Wade asked about the 32 positions that are being lost and will go to CPS. What will happen to QA. Mr. Klopp said the people who are being moved to another department, some of them may be QA staff. At

this time IHSS QA has seven positions, one was already frozen and unfunded during an earlier budget crunch. With this round of cuts, it is possible that QA will only have four QA social workers. Also, the people who are being moved to CPS will be provided training for that department. He said IHSS will have to think about restructuring. Staff may need to be moved among the three sites, but the expectation is that all three locations will continue to be staffed. Caseload levels will be reviewed because there will be approximately 4,000 cases that lose their social worker. Intakes, re-assessments, payroll, all program areas may be impacted.

- B. SEIU International – No one from the union was present.
- C. Public Authority, Bernadette Lynch – Ms. Lynch talked about the budget and said as Mr. Klopp had pointed out, President Obama had signed the Stimulus Package. She talked about the Federal share of Medi-Cal money, increasing from a 50% share to a minimum of a 54.9% retroactive to October 2008. Additional increases can be expected as there will be a bump in the increase connected to the unemployment rate in the state. This will extend through 2010. The State's budget reduces caregivers' pay to \$9.50 per hour, plus \$.60 for benefits. This reduction will not occur if the Medi-Cal monies from the Stimulus Package exceed \$10 million. The Department of Finance and the State Treasurer have until April 1, 2009, to determine if this trigger is met.

Ms. Lynch also discussed Share of Cost Buy Outs. For all new IHSS recipients, if they are determined to have a share of cost, they will have to pay the higher Medi-Cal share of cost with no subsidy from the State. The reduction for optional Medi-Cal services is still on the table. It will go into effect if the aforementioned trigger is not pulled. The County's budget is predicated on the State's budget. The Board of Supervisors voted to close two clinics and to cease providing medical services to undocumented individuals. On March 3, 2009, the Public Authority will present a revised budget to the Board. This revision will abolish 3-1/2 positions. One and 1/2 positions were vacant and the additional two positions are a social worker and the health educator. Senior Connection notified the Public Authority that they can no longer provide classes so with the loss of the contract and positions, the education/training ability of the Public Authority is severely curtailed.

In addition, the Authority had to trim the operational budget. Ms. Lynch said that the Public Authority is asking if the Advisory Committee would be willing to pay the cost of mailing *Caring Matters*. The Public Authority can no longer afford to pay for the mailings. A question was asked about how many people actually read *Caring Matters* and Ms. Lynch said in the past we have received a lot of responses from people who receive the newsletter.

Ms. Lynch discussed Quality Assurance and said that with high caseloads, it is difficult to expect quality and suggested that the Advisory Committee talk with IHSS to see how they will handle the problem.

Ms. Lynch indicated that SEIU UHW has been placed in trusteeship by SEIU International. Everything in terms of the contract should remain the same at this time since the trustees have assured the Public Authority that current processes will remain in place. The current contract expires in November 2009.

The California Association of Public Authorities has been very involved in legislation. A video of Ms. Kinley and her son that the Sacramento Bee did will be on the CAPA website through a link. CAPA continues to advocate for consumers and will participate in a Senate hearing on March 23, 2009. The hearings focus will be IHSS.

V. Committee Matters

- A. CICA – Ms. Stuart was not in attendance at today’s AC meeting.
- B. Education – The Public Authority will be profiling a committee member in *Caring Matters* so please get any information to them by mid-March.

Ms. Lyall suggested that *Caring Matters* only be sent out 1 or 2 times a year. There was discussion about putting the newsletter on-line. A concern was expressed that a lot of seniors do not have computers or access to one. Discussion followed regarding sending out a form asking if people had on-line access but Ms. Lyall said she was concerned with whether we have enough staff to do that. Ms. Lynch suggested that this be discussed at the next Finance Committee. It was

suggested that the April meeting be moved to March 12, before the Education and QA meetings. Approximately 26,000 copies of *Caring Matters* are mailed at a cost of about \$.30 per copy.

C. **Quality Assurance** – The sub-committee has reviewed the 2007 QA report with Mr. Klopp providing updates to each of the recommendations. Mr. Simonson said that Mr. Mikiska will be marketing her calendar tool to the private sector and she hopes to meet with representatives from Darrell Steinberg’s office.

VI. New Business – Ms. Lynch said she had previously talked with Ms. Lyall about the Task Force advising that there was only one seat for the Advisory Committee on the Task Force. It was suggested that a letter be written to the Task Force advising the Chairs that the Advisory Committee felt to be fully represented, there needs to be a caregiver and a consumer at the meetings. A motion was made to write a letter to the Task Force asking that Ms. Stuart and Ms. Schlesinger both be on the Task Force. There was a unanimous approval by all Committee members present. (Powmacwizalord/Godoy). Ms. Lynch will submit a draft letter to Ms. Lyall for her approval.

Mr. Simonson received a request from Ms. Mikiska, a former member, that she be provided taxi service to and from the AC meetings. This was previously done for Mr. Mohtadi, a former Committee Chair, when the Committee’s membership was low. Ms. Schlesinger said the budget is so tight and there is a strong committee at this time, so after discussion, it was unanimously agreed that Ms. Mikiska’s request be denied.

Attendance of The True “R” Words Conference was discussed. The cost is \$275.00 per person if registering before the cutoff. The cost would include some meals. A motion was made that three people be allowed to attend the Conference. (Kinley/Godoy). Ms. Wade abstained.

VII. Old Business – Nothing to report.

VIII. Public Comments – None.

IX. Adjournment – Ms. Lyall adjourned the meeting at 2:50 P.M.