

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

**Attendees:** Koleen Biegacki, Francisco Godoy, DeAnga Hills, Melissa Kinley, Antoinette Lopez-Coles, Kristen Lyall, Stormaliza Powmacwizalord, Bari Schlesinger, Michele Stuart and Cordia Wade

**Guests:** Bert Bettis (IHSS), Erica Bland (SEIU), Denise Blockmon (Ms. Lyall's Caregiver), Emma Ebeling (PA), Martha Garcia (Ms. Lopez-Coles' Caregiver), Teresita Godoy (Mr. Godoy's Caregiver), Pat Hebrand (Ms. Schlesinger's Caregiver), Guy Klopp (IHSS), Pat Leichty (PA), Bernadette Lynch (PA), Alex McMannis (Interpreter), Rick Simonson (PA) and Gwendolyn Savage (PA)

**I. Call to Order:**

Chairperson Lyall called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM. All AC members were present.

Ms. Lyall informed everyone that pictures would be taken of the AC members and she thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**II. Introductions:**

All committee members and guests introduced themselves.

**III. Consent Calendar:**

Ms. Lyall said she wanted to thank Ms. Savage from the Public Authority for the excellent job she did on the Annual Report.

- A. Agenda – The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. (Hills/Stuart)
- B. Minutes – Ms. Powmacwizalord asked for a correction to the February 18, 2009 minutes. She wanted the minutes on page 2, section C, to say she was not asking for an interpreter but was only

inquiring if one would be available. The minutes were accepted with changes as noted. (Wade/Biegacki)

- C. Chair's Report and Correspondence – Ms. Lyall said since Ms. Biegacki will need to leave the meeting early, she would like to discuss the Finance Action Item first.

Ms. Lyall said because of money issues, the Public Authority cannot pay postage to mail *Caring Matters* in the next fiscal year. Ms. Blockmon said that at the last Finance Sub-Committee meeting, the participants discussed an idea and wanted to present it to everyone.

The proposal is that the money left in the Advisory Committee's 2008/2009 budget be used to pay postage for the June newsletter which may be the last issue. Mr. Simonson said that the projected year-end AC expenses would be about \$35,000, leaving a balance of \$15,000 to \$16,000. Proposal #1 is that the AC approve payment for the mailing of the June newsletter which should cost \$10,000 to \$11,000, which would leave a balance of approximately \$5,000. A motion was made for the Advisory Committee to pay for the June issue. (Wade/Schlesinger)

Since the AC will not have sufficient funds to pay for mailing *Caring Matters* four times in the next budget year, other options were discussed as follows: (1) Putting copies at the IHSS facilities so copies could be picked up when caregivers drop off the timesheets. The problem with this suggestion is that only about 1/3 of the caregivers drop off their timesheets and the rest mail the timesheets. (2) Having *Caring Matters* on-line, but many caregivers do not have access to the internet. If the AC would commit to \$31,000 out of next year's budget, the Public Authority would publish two newsletters. The AC is traveling less and there are fewer sub-committees, which will save money. This would leave approximately \$21,000 to pay for other expenses. Another option would be to add a note to the pay stubs but IHSS would need to do that. Ms. Bettis said that only 96 characters can be added to the bottom of the pay stubs. Also discussed as possibilities were: reverse calling, charging people if they want a copy mailed to them, only publishing two issues instead of three, having consumers/caregivers contact the PA if they want a copy mailed to them, or putting copies in the new caregiver packets. Also putting a flyer at the payroll locations in proximity to the drop

box regarding *Caring Matters* was talked about, but Mr. Klopp pointed out that on payroll days, the parking lot, which is small, fills up with people dropping off their timesheets. Ms. Lynch said that the newsletter is a heavy workload for staff. PA staff has been reduced so the PA needs clear direction on what the AC wants. Does the AC want a newsletter for 2009/2010? The PA is willing to do it because this is communication for the caregivers and clients, but does the AC just want it sent electronically. After discussion, it was decided to send out the June and December issues and the AC will pay for the printing and postage expenses. (Kinley/Stuart)

#### **IV. Reports:**

- A. DHHS Senior and Adult Services, Bert Bettis, Division Manager and Guy Klopp:

Ms. Bettis let the AC know that IHSS has lost 32 staff. There are approximately 4,000 cases currently not assigned to a social worker, but a voicemail has been set up to call in and ask for the social worker of the day. There are also proposals for 2009/2010 for additional reductions. The report from March 17, 2009 indicates that California may not get the \$10 billion as previously discussed and if that happens, there will be a reduction in wages for caregivers and increase in the Share of Cost for some recipients. We should know by April 1. Ms. Bettis said there is some hope that under the Recovery Act, we will receive some Medi-Cal money which will go to provider payments. Mr. Godoy asked if it wasn't illegal to reduce payments. Ms. Bettis said that was a decision our legal council will make. The State has a right to reduce their contribution to the wages and benefits. Also, IHSS will not be able to handle all the intake requests, so there will likely be a waiting list.

- B. SEIU-UHW – Erica Bland: Ms. Bland said that SEIU-UHW believes the subsidy money is on the way and that the union is fighting the budget cuts.

- C. Public Authority – Bernadette Lynch, Executive Director:

Ms. Lynch said that skilled nursing facilities are receiving raises and while it does not save counties, it saves the state money. IHSS keeps individuals out of nursing homes at a much lower cost. The

declaration by the Treasurer and the DOF leaves the cuts on the table. A consultant has indicated that the State could take \$3.2 billion from education and count that toward the \$10 billion trigger, averting the reductions. On a good note, at the Federal level, Senator Harman may be looking at skilled nursing dollars to follow the person as he/she moves into the community. The Federal government has released money for Meals on Wheels. Regarding the budget cuts, the PA lost two filled positions: the Health Educator and a social worker assigned to the Education unit. Eskaton Senior Connection will no longer be providing classes for the caregivers but the PA is going to restructure and do some in-house classes. The current union contract ends November 30, 2009. SEIU-UUHW has been distributing an e-mail sent by Ms. Lynch to SEIU's Ms. Mahlberg which narrowly affirmed issues related to decertification. Ms. Lynch was not apprised by the union that this would be done. The narrow construction could be misinterpreted.

Regarding AC terms, Michele Stuart and Melissa Kinley can reapply for a second term to be on the Advisory Committee. Stormaliza Powmacwizalord will not be able to continue after her term ends on June 20, 2009, since she has completed two terms.

The Nominating Committee will meet on April 9, 2009 at 12:00 to develop a slate of officers for 2009-2010.

## **V. Committee Matters:**

- A. CICA – Ms. Stuart said she did not have a CICA report today.
- B. Education – There will be a Core Class Graduation on April 1, 2009 and all Committee members have been invited to attend. Some members will be arriving early to help with decorations. Ms. Stuart will bring flowers.
- C. Finance – Already discussed at the beginning of the meeting.
- D. Quality Assurance – The Committee talked about some of the members visiting with other Advisory Committees in counties close to the Sacramento area. A question was asked about what the goal of visiting other ACs would be and the answer was to find out what other counties do and see if we can learn anything new. There was some

concern about members going too far and spending money and that the committee needs to be aware of the expenditure of funds, particularly in difficult economic times. Ms. Wade suggested that committee members attend the Adult and Aging Commission meetings which are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 4875 Broadway, Conference Rooms 1A and 1B, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. The next meeting will be at the Pannell Meadowview Community Center @ 2450 Meadowview Road on March 25 @ 1:30 P.M., but the meetings are normally held at 4875 Broadway. The April 22 meeting will be held at 9750 Business Park Drive. Ms. Wade encouraged committee members to attend. There was a motion for some AC members to visit other counties. The motion passed. (Stuart/Godoy)

There will be a Nomination Sub-Committee meeting on April 9, 2009 from 12:00 to 12:30, just before the QA and Education meetings.

**VI. New Business** – None.

**VII. Old Business** – None

Ms. Lynch reminded the Advisory Committee members that anyone who needs to complete their Ethics training, please do so ASAP. Please let Ms. Leichty know when the training has been completed.

**IX. Adjournment** – Chair Lyall adjourned the meeting at 2:45 PM