

**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 15, 2009
Minutes**

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

Absent: Koleen Biegacki (Excused)

Staff & Guests: Amerish Bera M.D. (UC Davis), Erica Bland (SEIU), Denise Blockmon (Ms. Lyall's Caregiver), Emma Ebeling (PA), Martha Garcia (Ms. Lopez-Coles Caregiver), Mary Hashash (Guest), Pat Hebrand (Ms. Schlesinger's Caregiver), Guy Klopp (IHSS), Pat Leichty (PA), Christie Pell (Interpreter), Steven Schaffert (American River HealthPro Credit Union), Gwendolyn Savage (PA), and Rick Simonson (PA)

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 was reviewed. A correction was made to the word “Guest”. The agenda was approved with the correction. (Wade/Stuart)
- B. Minutes – The March 18, 2009 minutes were reviewed. A correction was made to the word “counsel”. The minutes were approved as corrected. (Wade/Stuart)

- C. Chair's Report and Correspondence – Dates for the Grand Jury Response meetings were discussed.

IV. Guest Speakers:

Amerish Bera M.D., a physician affiliated with UC Davis, sits on the Board of the American River HealthPro Credit Union. He talked about the importance of providing resources for low-income individuals, such as IHSS providers and recipients, to start banking with credit unions or banks instead of using check cashing businesses that charge very high interest rates for short-term loans. To promote this, Bank on California was recently instituted as a statewide program to provide such accounts through traditional banking institutions.

Steve Schaffert, Executive Vice President of the American River HealthPro Credit Union distributed literature and reminded people that credit unions are owned by the members rather than stockholders and are typically non-profit. The Healthpro Credit Union provides a full spectrum of banking and lending services. There is no charge for direct deposit of paychecks, and free checking and saving accounts are available. They have low interest rates on loans and pay higher than usual interest on savings accounts. Banks and credit unions provide an option to pay day lending businesses which charge \$10 to \$20 for every \$100, and when you pay them back, you have to deposit the money at their location. Bank on California provides tools to educate and assist people with building or re-establishing their credit. There are also seminars available.

It was suggested that flyers be enclosed with the new provider packets to let people know about credit unions or banks vs. pay day lending businesses. Questions were asked by members about information being provided in other languages and Mr. Schaffert said that could easily be done. It was also suggested that an article be put in the next Caring Matters issue.

V. Reports:

- A. DHHS Senior and Adult Services – Guy Klopp:

Mr. Klopp discussed the continuing shortfall of \$11 million cuts for 09/10 for DHHS. There will be a one (1) day furlough per month for all

management staff. Cost of living cuts for management will be effective immediately for the next 14 months. A question was asked about the social workers who were laid off and Mr. Klopp said they were moved to CPS. The moves to CPS were possible due to CPS having funds available. The 32 positions were lost from IHSS.

A question was asked if IHSS was going to be able to attend the meeting on the Grand Jury Report. Mr. Klopp said that IHSS is developing their response to the Board of Supervisors. The Advisory Committee's response to the Grand Jury Report can be sent to IHSS for review if the Advisory Committee would like.

There are close to 4,000 uncovered IHSS cases being handled by the Worker of the Day. Mr. Klopp said due to the loss of the 32 staff, there will be delays. For clients who lost their social worker, there will be a message on the phone voice mail to call the Worker of the Day.

B. SEIU-UHW – Erica Bland:

Ms. Bland provided an update and said there is still a chance to fight the IHSS wage cuts. The union is meeting with Legislators and others and is looking at whether the roll backs on wages are illegal. The union is also working with consumers and providers on sending letters to the newspapers. Some of the petitions that are being mailed out would decertify the union. Ms. Bland asked members not to sign and return the red and purple forms that are being sent to them.

C. Public Authority – Rick Simonson:

There is a \$187 million county-wide deficit which impacts everyone. It was previously mentioned that Eskaton will no longer provide training and the Public Authority is considering eliminating training contracts with American Red Cross and UC Cooperative Extension. The State has reduced its share of the IHSS wage to \$9.50 per hour. Mr. Simonson said the county is waiting to hear how the stimulus funding will impact IHSS wages. It is unknown at this time if the State will withhold any portion of the stimulus funding. There are still unknowns but wages for the caregivers will not be less than \$9.40, with \$.70 going toward health benefits. A question was asked about CPR classes and Mr. Simonson said

that there are free classes available in the community and individuals interested in CPR will be advised of those classes.

Mr. Simonson discussed the ARRA Cobra 65% subsidy for people who involuntarily lost their jobs starting September 2008.

Mr. Klopp said there will be a stakeholders' meeting about the new State IHSS Provider Enrollment form scheduled for April 28, 2009 and people are invited to attend. The new enrollment forms should be available for use by October 2009.

Ms. Lyall asked if there will still be an Education Sub-Committee since there will not be anyone to teach the classes. Mr. Simonson said that the sub-committee is needed more than ever so they can provide input into alternative education practices.

VI. Committee Matters:

- A. CICA - Ms. Stuart will send out an e-mail to everyone about the most recent CICA conference call.
- B. Education – Ms. Lyall said that the Core Class Graduation was very nice. She would like to have seen more committee members at the graduation but thanked those who did attend.
- C. Nominating Committee – Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair were discussed earlier in the meeting. A motion was made to accept Ms. Lyall as Chair and Ms. Kinley as Vice Chair for FY 2009-10. (Stuart/Hill) A vote was taken and the motion passed.
- D. Quality Assurance – The QA meeting was not held in April due to a Special Meeting to discuss the Grand Jury Report.

VII. New Business:

A question was asked about whether Paratransit coupons could be used by members to attend a rally at the State Capitol. It was discussed and a motion was made that members could only use coupons for Advisory Committee events. (Wade/Lyall) A vote was taken with three “yes” votes from Ms. Wade, Ms. Lyall and Ms. Powmacwizalord, three “no” votes

from Ms. Kinley, Ms. Schlesinger and Ms. Hills and Mr. Godoy “abstained”. The vote was that Paratransit coupons could not be used.

Ms. Lyall asked who was going to attend the meetings to develop an IHSSAC response to the Grand Jury findings. This will be a short term committee since the response needs to be in by June 1. The following people volunteered to be on the committee: Ms. Lyall, Ms. Hills, Ms. Kinley, Ms. Stuart and Ms. Wade. Ms. Cotta-Warren and Ms. Larson from the Public Authority will provide staff support.

VIII. Old Business:

Nothing to report.

IX. Public Comment:

Mr. Godoy asked if it would be alright to send the Grand Jury Report to CICA and was told it is a public document and may be transmitted.

Ms. Wade invited everyone to attend the Adult & Aging Committee meeting on April 22 at 1:30.

X. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM.