

**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
September 24, 2008  
Minutes**

**Attendees:** Francisco Godoy, Melissa Kinley, Antoinette Lopez-Coles, Kristen Lyall, Stormaliza Powmacwizalord and Michele Stuart

**Absent:** Bari Schlesinger

**Staff and Guests:** Denise Blockman (Caregiver to Ms. Lyall), Emma Ebeling (PA), Teresita Godoy (Caregiver to Ms. Godoy), Guy Klopp (IHSS), Pat Leichty (PA), Bernadette Lynch (PA) and Rick Simonson (PA) Martha (Ms. Lopez-Coles Caregiver)

No ASL interpreters were available for this meeting

**I. Call to Order:**

Chair Lyall called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. A quorum was present at the meeting.

**II. Introductions:**

Chair Lyall welcomed the Advisory Committee's newest member, Antoinette Lopez-Coles. Ms. Lopez-Coles said she has been with IHSS for eight years and is happy to be on the Advisory Committee.

All committee members and guests introduced themselves.

**III. Consent Calendar:**

A. Agendas for March, April, June and August 2008 were approved.

- B. Minutes for March, April and June 2008 were approved. Ms. Stuart asked Mr. Klopp about the report being prepared for the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Klopp advised it would be January 2009 before the report regarding IHSS statistics is ready.

Ms. Stuart asked about Medi-Cal providing a presentation to the Committee. This issue was discussed at the last Advisory Committee meeting and is referred to on page 4 of the August 2008 minutes. Ms. Lyall has not heard anything yet but she will check on it.

A motion was made by Ms. Kinley and seconded by Ms. Stuart to approve the August 2008 Agenda and Minutes. The motion was approved by the Committee members.

- C. Chair's Report & Correspondence: Ms. Lyall reported that Ms. Thiem has resigned from the Committee. Ms. Blockmon read the letter of resignation. Ms. Thiem's seat now needs to be filled. There are 11 positions on the Advisory Committee and currently 7 positions are filled. Ms. Lynch said that Ms. Schlesinger was planning to return from medical leave to the Advisory Committee meetings next month.

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

- A. DHHS Senior and Adult Services: Mr. Klopp apologized for not being able to attend the entire meeting due to a prior commitment. He discussed the budget which has been completed. It appears that a 5% cut to IHSS Administration, Social Workers and staff was made to the budget by the Governor. Their allocation is due to go up 5.8% and that should offset the cuts from the State. There was a 10% cut to APS and they are bare bones as it is.

EDS received the contract for the CMIPS II project. Timesheets will ultimately be processed by the State centrally. EDS will scan and process all paychecks from a centralized location for the entire State of California. Provider enrollment, questionable timesheets, and other problems will be dealt with by IHSS staff at the county level. Merced, San Diego and a

third county will pilot the program for the new payroll system. Sacramento is scheduled to be next after the Pilot Program has been completed. There is a launch date of 2010.

Ms. Stuart asked how it would be determined who actually signs the timesheets. Mr. Klopp said the State will have to work on this with EDS. Mr. Klopp advised that EDS and the State will be discussing different issues as they arise.

The Elder Death Report was previously provided to the Advisory Committee members. Some IHSS cases that were looked into were those in which elders have died in possibly questionable circumstances. The report recommends that all providers have background checks but that would be at a great cost to the general fund. Mr. Klopp added that IHSS is in the limelight right now and an IHSS Workgroup has been created to review IHSS data and report back any recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Another group, the IHSS Task Force, at the behest of the Board of Supervisors is being considered to review the program more extensively. A recommendation about establishing a Task Force will go to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Godoy asked if caregivers would be getting their pay and/or hours cut. Mr. Klopp responded that this had been proposed by the Governor, rejected by the Assembly and Senate, and was not approved by the Governor in the final budget. Extending the IHSS re-evaluation period to 18 months was not approved.

Ms. Blockmon asked about how a Share of Cost was calculated and Mr. Klopp advised the Committee that Medi-Cal does the calculations. Share of Cost could vary monthly.

Letters went out to 12,600 people regarding the change in their assigned social workers.

Safely Out packets have not been delivered at this time.

Mr. Klopp said there is a new booklet, *Stop, Look and Care*, which discusses how to be more aware of the needs of the elderly and disabled when they do not have family available. He will bring copies to the next meeting.

- B. SEIU: The Union was not present. Ms. Stuart said that the union is in discussions to combine caregivers and nurses in the same union and she thinks caregivers' issues would be lost. She talked with one of the union representatives and she said most caregivers do not want this consolidation to happen. There will be a rally in San Mateo next week, with free transportation and lodging and the union is hoping that a lot of people will attend. Information on bus schedules was provided.

The Union and the Public Authority need to meet regarding the increase in premiums for health coverage in 2009. Ms. Blockmon said that she would talk with the Union about costs. The Union has options to mitigate the increase in Kaiser costs, cover fewer beneficiaries, change the coverage, etc. Dental costs stay the same.

- C. Public Authority, Bernadette Lynch: Ms. Lynch provided more information on the budget. The SSP COLA will not be given in 2008 and 2009. Funding for the Multi-service Senior Programs, APS, the Ombudsman and Senior Legal Hotline is being cut.

New applicants for the Advisory Committee are being interviewed.

With regard to the ERDT, there is a role for the Advisory Committee since the mandate is to provide on-going advice regarding IHSS to the Board of Supervisors. The committee sent a letter to the County requesting participation on the workgroup but was advised that internal meetings were being held and that the workgroup would bring information to the committee.

With regard to the possible Task Force, the committee will have to take a lead role in gathering community input

Ms. Lynch said that November is Caregiver Recognition Month. The Public Authority will have an event at the BOS on the first Wednesday of the month honoring caregivers.

The Public Authority is developing a new program in which staff will visit registry clients to assess the quality of work being provided. The four new Public Authority Social Worker Interns will be assisting staff in this endeavor.

**V. Committee Matters:**

- A. CICA – Ms. Lynch talked about the CICA conference which is being held in San Jose on November 7 – 9, 2008. If cash advances are needed, please let Ms. Leichthy know. Upon their return, participants need to turn in the original receipts with their travel papers and any unspent travel advance. The Committee pays for members to attend. Note that, per the County policy, alcoholic beverages are not paid for by the Committee.

Ms. Kinley advised the Committee that CICA’s dues of \$2,000 need to be paid. A motion was made to pay the CICA dues by Ms. Stuart and seconded by Ms. Lopez-Coles. The motion was approved.

Ms. Lyall talked about last year’s conference and how each county had a representative basket which was raffled. She asked if we would be able to do one this year. Mr. Simonson advised the members that Advisory Committee funds could not be used for this. Ms. Blockmon suggested that everyone donate something so a basket could be taken to the conference.

- B. Education – There has been some discussion about a web-site where caregivers and consumers can vent their feelings.

There is a date conflict for the Education Sub-Committee meeting on October 9th due to the Supported Life Conference from October 8 thru 10, 2008 . A motion was made by Ms. Stuart and seconded by Ms. Lopez-Coles to move the Finance, Education and Quality Assurance Sub-Committee meetings to

October 7<sup>th</sup> since several people will be attending the Supported Life Conference. The motion was approved.

There was also a motion to approve any members wishing to attend the Supported Life Conference by Ms. Kinley and seconded by Ms. Lopez-Coles. The motion was approved by the Committee.

- C. Quality Assurance – Mr. Simonson said the Committee is reviewing the 2007 report and getting updates to decide what issue to address next.

The Mental Health Aging Conference was discussed. Ms. Stuart will advise if she is able to attend. No one else was able to go to this conference. A motion was made by Ms. Kinley and seconded by Ms. Lopez-Coles for one person to attend.

- D. Finance – The 2008-2009 budget and a report of spending was discussed. Mr. Godoy made a motion to accept the budget and Ms. Kinley seconded. The motion was approved.

**VI. Old Business** – Nothing to report.

**VII. New Business** - It was suggested that the Advisory Committee have a potluck for Halloween. Ms. Lynch said that the Public Authority would provide the plates and drinks.

**VIII. Public Comments** - Ms. Stuart said that there is a National tele-class in November and she will bring information to the October meeting.

**IX. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.