

**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 18, 2009
1:00-3:00 P.M.
Draft Minutes**

Attendees: Koleen Blegacki, Francisco Godoy, Kristen Lyall, Carolyn Rose,
Stormaliza Powmacwizalord
Absent: DeAnga Hills, Melissa Kinley, Antoinette Lopez-Coles , Cordia Wade

Staff & Guests: Carrie Bernard, Sheila Bracker-Hall (Interpreter), Estrada Cardenas (Mr. Godoy's caregiver) Deanna Jekayinfa (PA), Diane McFarland (SAS-IHSS), Rick Simonson (PA), Laura West (DA Fraud Task Force) Marcella Rojas

I. Call to Order

Lyle (chair) called the meeting to order at 1:15

II. Introductions

New Board Member: Donald Prange – Mr. Prange introduced himself

III. Consent Calendar

A. Agenda-Motion made by Lyle to accept agenda and minutes second by Mr. Godoy.

B. Minutes (review/accept) – accepted by board

C. Chair's Report & Correspondence –

Received a letter inviting IHSS Advisory Committee has been given the option to have 2-3 representatives on the IHSS Task Force (created from the Elder Death Review Committee). Kristen Lyall, Donald Prange and Carolyn rose will attend the next meeting scheduled for November 19, 2009, at 1:30, at 9750 Business Park drive. The meeting is held every 3rd Thursday of the month. – see attached.

Received a letter from Bernadette Lynch thanking the committee for their recognition of her service as Executive Director of the IHSS Public Authority – see attached.

Kristen Lyall thanked the IHSSPA staff for their hard work on the November 2009 Caregiver Day Recognition event.

IV. Reports

A. DHHS Senior and Adult Services, Diane McFarland

State court issued an injunction stopping loss of domestic services due to change in functional index implemented by the State of California. The functional numbers had already been changed in the system, therefore; each County was required to manually recalculate the functional index by November 1, 2009.

There are currently 6500 uncovered cases in the process of being re-distributed to the remaining IHSS staff. Social Workers currently have 220 cases per worker but with the new changes the caseload will increase to 280 case's per worker. The number of telephone calls has increased and the ability to respond reduced due to lay offs.

State holidays and furloughs have impacted the processing of IHSS pay checks.

Intake unit implemented and will cause an increase in caseload but ultimately it may reduce cases because there will be a uniform intake process.

Has there been a loss in staff who process payments?

Reduction in the number of staff has decreased the number of timesheets that can be processed. Processing of reinstating loss of domestic services also caused delays in payroll because positions were temporarily reallocated to fix functional index in the system.

The answer machine is hanging up on clients – Dianne will report the problem.

Suggestions:

IHSS create an e-mail dedicated to payroll issues.

Volunteers be used to help answer telephones.

B. SEIU-UHW – No report

C. Public Authority, Acting Executive Director, Rick Simonson

The budget outlook is bleak. CPS was impacted by the last round of cuts. The AC might want to consider speaking to the BOS about the impact to IHSS should there be additional cuts. .

Do we get federal money?

Yes, there is stimulus money that is helping to fund IHSS and Sacramento County. The funding will end December 2010 and represents about 10 million dollars that were not cut. State will probably consider additional cuts to the IHSS program.

Provider Enrollment Update: The state communicates to counties via “All County Letters” received 3 at 10:30 p.m. on October 31, 2009. Many counties are unable to implement the new process, because they either/or do not have an existing relationship with DOJ or did not have a process in place to accommodate the changes. Sacramento County chose to move forward and implement the state mandated changes.

If someone has a felony conviction, they can't be an IHSS caregiver. Currently, there is no guidance for expunged or overturned felonies. We are still waiting for more clarification from the state.

PA agreed with IHSS to do provider orientation, screening and enrollments and is currently developing a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with IHSS. The IHSS Public Authority has been providing orientations and performing screening for many years, so this is a logical choice. Because of provider orientation and enrollment, the PA was able to save 3 Senior Office Assistant positions slated for lay off. We don't have written or on-line orientation materials from the state that can be used for provider orientations.

The IHSS Public Authority is working on developing the capacity to do LiveScans (digital imaging of fingerprints) A fee review is underway to determine the amount charged for each livescan operation.

IHSS PA Intake process:

Review results, package paperwork together, and send info to IHSS.

Review report results from the DOJ showing any convictions.

Question: Once someone is determined able to be a caregiver, then the provider has a felony arrest what happens? IHSS PA receives subsequent arrest notifications

Is there a way to get a conviction report? Unsure if a conviction report process is available through DOJ (note: subsequent conviction notifications are newly available from the DOJ and the IHSS Public Authority will request this information).

Statewide, 450,000 caregivers must be processed by DOJ between now and June 2010 (25,000 in Sacramento County).

Negotiations continue with SEIU for a successor agreement to the current contract that expires November 30, 2009.

Caregiver recognition – thanks to Kristen and her family for decorating.

D. Laura West, District Attorney

Updates:

23 felony fraud cases have been filed in court. Fraud team is out today arresting and placing warrants in the system. Currently, there are 500 fraud referrals pending. 71 cases currently be worked on representing about \$500,000 in lost funding. An example is one client who had been collecting IHSS for 20 years but we could only prosecute for the last 5 years. The client claimed he needs 24-hour protective supervision. Client's daughter also became a recipient (collecting \$40, 000 in IHSS monies) with the same health issues as father and collected money from child action because she stated she was attending school and need full time child care.

Additional warrants include: provider/recipient paid after either has died; provider/recipient paid after either is incarcerated; provider/recipient paid after either has left the country.

The IHSS Fraud Team consist of 7 criminal investigators, 2 Investigative assistants, 1 Paralegal, 1 Prosecutor, and 2 State Investigators paid by the state.

There will be a press conference at the DA's office tomorrow announcing task force arrests, charges, and provide an overview of the methods used to detect fraud.

The IHSS Fraud Task Forces' goal is to, detect and prevent and prosecute fraud. The task force is currently drafting an information letter to all providers and recipients with information about the Fraud Task Force and to provide contact information.

Will the doctors who signed off on these cases be prosecuted?

No, unless there was willful malice to fraud.

Can retired police officers conduct pre-IHSS interviews?

Unsure, we will have to determine if it would be feasible.

If you have any questions or need to contact me, please call 916-874-4788 or e-mail me at WestLa@sacda.org

V. Committee Matters

A. CICA – No Report

VII. New Business: Christmas Potluck – We will begin the meeting at 12:00 for a potluck and the meeting will follow. Kristen will send out potluck e-mail.

IX. Old Business - none

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

XI. Adjournment 3:05