

**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 19, 2008
Minutes**

Attendees: Koleen Biegacki, DeAnga Hills, Melissa Kinley, Antoinette Lopez-Coles, Kristen Lyall, Stormaliza Powmacwizalord, and Michele Stuart

Absent: Francisco Godoy* and Bari Schlesinger

Staff & Guests: Shaune Allen (Interpreter), Denise Blockmon (Ms. Lyall's Caregiver), Emma Ebeling (PA), Guy Klopp (IHSS), Pat Leichty (PA), Bernadette Lynch (PA), Rick Simonson (PA), Cordia Wade (Guest), and Judy Winn (Interpreter)

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Introductions:

Chair Lyall welcomed new members Koleen Biegacki and DeAnga Hills to the Advisory Committee. Ms. Biegacki said she is a caregiver for her 16 year old daughter. Ms. Hills said she is a recipient. Also welcomed was Cordia Wade who is with the Adult and Aging Commission and attended as a guest/observer.

All committee members and guests introduced themselves.

Ms. Lyall gave an explanation of the new signs she will be using in the future at the AC meetings.

* Mr. Godoy was excused as he was meeting with an Op-ed reporter from the Sacramento Bee regarding the proposed IHHS cuts.

III. Consent Calendar:

- A. Agenda – The agenda was reviewed and Ms. Stuart asked how the meeting with the Legislative Analyst went. Mr. Simonson said he thought it went well. The LAO representative and CAPA lobbyist seemed impressed with staff and the work that the Public Authority does.

Ms. Stuart requested that the Elder Suicide Conference be added to the agenda.

Ms. Lyall requested that a change be made to the agenda for section V-A: from the “CICA Conference” to the “Supported Life Conference.”

- B. Minutes – The minutes were reviewed. Ms. Kinley made a motion to accept the minutes and Ms. Lopez-Coles seconded. The minutes were approved, with Ms. Biegacki abstaining.
- C. Chairs Reports and Correspondence – Ms. Stuart talked about the People First Conference being held in June 2009. Ms. Blockmon passed around information for the conference. Ms. Lyall said she had received an e-mail about a mentoring conference in San Francisco being held in January 2009. The deadline to register will be December 18 or 19, 2008. Ms. Lyall said she had attended this type of conference in Boston in the past and it was very good. Since this year’s conference is being held in California, she thought more members on the committee may want to attend. She will e-mail additional information to the members when received.

IV. Reports:

- A. DHHS Senior and Adult Services, Guy Klopp: Mr. Klopp discussed that IHSS reassessments are 30% overdue. Overdue reassessments are people who have not been seen in the last 12 months. Some of the reasons for this are that starting in 2002, IHSS lost some of their social workers, there have been soft hiring freezes, retirements, and people changing departments so the cases stayed uncovered because positions were not filled. On-call staff had filled in the past but the number of on-calls was also reduced. Recently four new on-call

staff has been hired. IHSS is now almost fully staffed, except for one social worker. There were approximately 3,100 overdue reassessments which IHSS completed in about 10 months. There are now more overdue. Some of the cases are less than 6 months overdue. There are more than 1,000 that are 6 months old. New applications are coming in and IHSS gets an average of 600 to 650 new applications each month. Even though only about one-half of the applicants are approved for services, every person who applies must be evaluated by social workers.

Mr. Klopp's staff is still researching the issue of when clients go on vacation and which services caregivers can bill. The best he has been able to determine is that caregivers can only charge for services they provide and not for meal preparation or cleaning if they are staying in a hotel or somewhere that provides these services.

Mr. Klopp said that the Governor has called the legislature back in session to discuss additional cuts, some of which were originally on the table. There are proposals to cut MediCal services for dental, psychological services, podiatry, counseling, etc. This means it would be harder to get services. People will be notified by the State if that happens. It was asked when this was to take effect, and Mr. Klopp said he was not sure and that the Legislature had rejected this proposal before and may do so again. Reductions are proposed by tasks within the "domestic and related services". Each individual is assigned a ranking for each task. The levels are: Level 1, a person can do for themselves, Level 2, you need to be reminded, Level 3, a person cannot do much for themselves, Level 4, they can do significantly less for themselves and Level 5, a person needs total hands on support. This is for domestic services only. The IHSS program is growing at 8% a year with a current population of 20,496.

- B. SEIU-UHW: No one from the union was present for the meeting. Ms. Blockmon said she has spoken with them and suggested writing them a letter. A motion was made to send a letter to SEIU and invite them to attend all future meetings. Ms. Kinley made the motion and Ms. Hills seconded it. A draft letter will be sent to Ms. Lyall for her review and approval.

- C. Public Authority – Mr. Simonson discussed some cuts proposed by the Governor, one of which is reducing the State’s participation in wages to \$8.00 an hour. The Legislative Analyst’s office had suggested \$10.00 an hour. It was noted that Marin County had been able to get a wage increase for their caregivers.

Mr. Simonson talked about open enrollment for health benefits. Approximately 10,000 people have been sent open enrollment letters and 3,439 are already enrolled in health benefits.

The Public Authority has met with the union several times. The next scheduled meeting with the union is in December. Kaiser’s premiums have gone up 15%. The number of people covered under insurance will go from 3,439 to 3,256. This is being done through attrition and it may take up to six months to get to that level. Open enrollment is from December 1, 2008 to January 12, 2009. There are currently 997 people on the waiting list, which will be considerably higher after open enrollment, and caregivers must maintain eligibility the entire time they are waiting. The current wait period is approximately 18 to 24 months.

Mr. Simonson talked about the Elder Death Review Team meeting which was held on November 4, 2008 (minutes distributed). At the presentation, the DA wanted more time to look at the request. The Advisory Committee needs to provide input to the Review Team and let them know that they want to be part of the Task Force. He asked that the AC members try and attend the meeting and be prepared to speak. It is being held at the Board of Supervisors’ Office, 700 H Street, December 16, 2008, at 11:00 AM.

Mr. Simonson talked about the November National Caregivers’ Month Recognition. This year’s event focused on caregivers of adult children. Ms. Stuart accepted the Board of Supervisor’s resolution thanking the board on behalf of all caregivers. Each caregiver at the event received a small gift in appreciation for the work that they do. Many donations were received from companies and SEIU-UHW donated money for the event.

Ms. Lynch said that there will not be a COLA raise in the SSP this year. In some counties, the MSSP may be totally eliminated.

Mr. Simonson said that Mr. Godoy was not at the meeting because he had been invited to talk to the Sacramento Bee today at 3:00. Ms. Mikiska has a broken leg and will try to attend the next meeting.

Ms. Kinley asked about the videos that some of the clients and caregivers had done. Mr. Simonson said that it will be used for education and that the Public Authority has not had the resources to go any further (permission is required from the State to acquire the software to edit the video).

V. Committee Matters:

Ms. Lyall said that V-A on the agenda needs to be changed to read Supported Life Conference instead of CICA.

- A. Ms. Lyall said that the Public Authority did a wonderful job at the Caregiver Recognition event and thanked everyone. Ms. Lynch said that staff worked very hard and sought donations from companies and it was heartwarming to meet people who had taken care of others for 25 years or more.

Ms. Stuart discussed the CICA training day which is being planned for the spring. She would like everyone who is able to go to do so and she will keep people informed. It was also discussed that a lot of veterans are on IHSS and it would be good for them to let it be known that they need these services also.

Ms. Stuart talked about the Elder Suicide conference. Patrick Arbore was the speaker and Ms. Stuart said he was amazing. She will provide a report to the Advisory Committee. Ms. Stuart also said it was discussed that caregivers who take care of family members do not pay into social security which will affect their ability to receive social security in the future. Every state has something like IHSS and none of the caregivers who take care of a family member pay into Social Security.

Ms. Blockmon reported on the Supported Life Conference that was held on October 9 and 10, 2008. She and Ms. Lyall attended the *Elder Abuse Awareness* session and how to recognize if a person has been or is being abused was explained. The session talked about

putting a ring of safety in place with friends and neighbors who can check on clients at any given time. They also attended a session for *Taking Care of the Caregiver in You* and that each day caregivers need to take a few minutes for themselves. Another session was the *Power of the Disabled Vote*. The session provided a handout about the propositions and that people have a duty to vote. The next session was *Support and Personalized Settings* where they talked about having an employer/employee relationship and not to take advantage of each other. The last session was *Feeling Safe and Having an Emergency Plan*. They had little magnets indicating who you are, your medications, a backpack of things to take with you in an emergency, where the backpack is located, emergency numbers and also a personal emergency planner. There was also information about your animals. Ms. Blockmon said that the conference was very informative.

Ms. Kinley asked about the Disabled Voting session and was advised that any questions should be directed to Voter Registration. It was suggested that having information in the next session of Caring Matters would be helpful.

Ms. Powmacwizalord will provide a written report on the sessions she attended.

Mr. Godoy provided his report which was included in the packet.

B. Education:

1 – a. My Space Page. Ms. Lyall said that while they were at the CICA conference, she and Ms. Kinley came up with some ideas. They discussed having a web-page where people could post their concerns. Ms. Kinley said they were hoping to communicate with other counties about people's feelings and thoughts. Ms. Biegacki said she works for a State association so to get everyone together is worth looking into. Wikispace or Yahoo groups were mentioned. The Public Authority web-site was also discussed.

Ms. Biegacki asked who the umbrella is for IHSS. Ms. Lynch said that CICA is available to all Advisory Committee members who are

interested in joining and each county reports to their Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Lyall and Ms. Kinley said they thought it would be a good idea to attend IHSS meetings in other counties and it was suggested that either the Chair and/or the Vice Chair should attend. Ms. Stuart made the motion and Ms. Powmacwizalord seconded. Ms. Wade asked what the purpose of traveling to other counties would be. Ms. Lyall said she believes by going and observing other counties, we might learn something from them and that the more we learn, the more help we can be to the committee. A maximum of two people on the committee would be able to go. It was suggested that they start with surrounding communities and since other counties look to Sacramento as a model, this could be a good opportunity to train others. It may be helpful to have a small committee to see what counties would be beneficial to visit and maybe talking with Ms. Whiteford, CICA President. Ms. Blockmon will send an e-mail to her.

- C. Quality Assurance – The Quality Assurance minutes were included in the packets that were distributed.

- VI. New Business:** It was decided to have a Christmas party at the next AC meeting on December 17, 2008. The potluck will start at 12:00 PM with the regular meeting starting at 1:00 PM.

- VII. Old Business:** Ms. Lynch stated there may be a full Advisory Committee soon. More potential members are being interviewed.

- VIII. Public Comments:** Ms. Wade said she was glad to have a chance to attend and observe the Advisory Committee meeting.

- IX. Adjournment:** Ms. Lyall adjourned the meeting at 3:05 PM.