

**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 17, 2008
Minutes**

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

Absent: DeAnga Hills and Bari Schlesinger

Staff & Guests: Bert Bettis (IHSS), Denise Blockmon (Ms. Lyall's Caregiver), May Cha (UHW), Emma Ebeling (PA), Martha Garcia (Ms. Lopez-Coles Caregiver), Teresita Godoy (Mr. Godoy's Caregiver), Rolando Gutierrez (UHW), Guy Klopp (IHSS), Pat Leichty (PA), Bernadette Lynch (PA), Marcella Rojas (Interpreter), Rick Simonson (PA) and Cordia Wade (Guest)

I. Call to Order:

Chair Lyall called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM. A quorum was present.

II. Introductions:

All committee members and guests introduced themselves.

III. Consent Calendar:

- A. Agenda – The agenda was reviewed.
- B. Minutes - The minutes for November 19, 2008 were approved by a unanimous vote. (Biegacki/Kinley)
- C. Chair's Report - No report.

IV. Reports:

- A. DHHS Senior and Adult Services, Bert Bettis and Guy Klopp - Ms. Bettis talked about the budget for Senior and Adult Services. There is a soft hiring freeze at this time. The Governor called the Legislature back into session and asked for additional cuts which include IHSS. She has not received any information at this time. A new Provider Enrollment Program was discussed and Ms. Bettis said that new caregivers are being processed by IHSS. Mr. Klopp discussed the pilot project. The original legislation that created Quality Assurance, SB 1104, called for counties to initiate programs that would help to identify, prevent and prosecute fraud. Following a model used in Fresno County, Sacramento has launched an effort to give providers program information that will help to prevent fraud. Currently, providers who are working for new Intake cases come into the office for a presentation, which lasts about one hour, that provides an overview of services IHSS authorizes, an explanation about correctly completing timesheets, and information about activities that are considered fraud.

At the presentation, providers are required to provide their photo identification, their original social security card and sign a Provider Responsibility Checklist, which details out their responsibilities and restrictions.

At this time, the pilot is only focusing on Intake cases when the recipient is authorized for services. They have processed 70 providers during the month of December. Eventually, the program will be expanded to include all care providers and ensure the program does crucial fraud prevention.

Mr. Klopp passed around copies of the *Stop, Listen, and Care* booklets and discussed the importance of people being aware of the elderly or disabled.

He provided an update on the vacation issue previously discussed. Mr. Klopp reiterated that caregivers can accompany a provider on a trip or vacation at the recipient's expense. They can bill for authorized services provided during the trip or vacation. They cannot bill for services provided by a hotel, i.e., meal preparation, or changing linens. Also, if a client is in a

hospital or skilled nursing facility, the caregiver cannot bill for any services. A question on feeding came up and Mr. Klopp said that the Notice of Action tells how much time is authorized for different chores. Mr. Gutierrez from SEIU-UHW asked Mr. Klopp for clarification of hours a caregiver can be paid when clients and caregivers take vacations outside the county in which they reside. Mr. Klopp advised that a caregiver can only bill for authorized services they provide when on vacation.

Ms. Bettis talked about Medi-Cal issues. She said everyone needs to take the time to complete Medi-Cal forms when they are sent to you or contact your social worker if they need help filling out their application. Medi-Cal will be cut off if the forms are not filled out and returned, which puts IHSS at risk. Everyone should receive a new packet each year.

Ms. Bettis talked about the proposed IHSS Task Force. The Task Force issue arose out of a report from the Elder Death Review Team. Ms. Wade asked if they had plans to do background checks on all caregivers. Ms. Bettis said background checks are only done if requested or if the caregiver is on the Registry. The cost to do background checks on all caregivers would be approximately \$960,000.

- B. SEIU-UHW – Mr. Gutierrez and Ms. Cha. Mr. Gutierrez said that union members are being mobilized to speak against the Governor’s proposed cuts to IHSS. Ms. Blockmon said that phone calls and ballots she has been receiving about the dispute between SEIU-UHW and the union in Southern California are confusing. Mr. Gutierrez provided an update on what is going on between the two unions. Ms. Biegacki asked if the union could provide a fact sheet to the IHSSAC regarding the issues in dispute. Ms. Stuart said that the SEIU-UHW website has updates. Mr. Gutierrez said that correspondence and information sent to members by SEIU-UHW will have an Oakland return address. Ms. Cha advised that membership meetings are being held which have helpful information and that additional meetings could be arranged. There are over 55,000 providers represented by SEIU-UHW in Northern California. A motion was made to request that SEIU-UHW provide IHSSAC members a fact sheet. (Biegacki/Lopez-Coles) The motion was unanimously approved.

- C. Public Authority, Ms. Lynch – Ms. Lynch thanked Mr. Godoy for talking with Daniel Weintraub of the Sacramento Bee to explain how valuable services are to IHSS recipients. Ms. Stuart addressed the Board of Supervisors following an Elderly Death Review Team report. Ms. Powmacwizalord also attended the meeting.

Ms. Lynch reported that Francisco Ayala, one of the Public Authority's staff who was responsible for creating *Caring Matters*, recently passed away. She said that other Public Authority staff is filling in for him and the latest issue of *Caring Matters* will be going to the printer soon.

Ms. Lynch said that the IHSS Budget Workgroup met recently. In early January 2009, meetings will be scheduled to obtain input from the IHSSAC and the union before the report goes to the Board of Supervisors. It is important that everyone on the IHSSAC attend the meeting to provide input. Ms. Lynch will try to see that IHSSAC members receive information as soon as it is available. The IHSSAC has one seat on the task force which will be a year long commitment. The union, the Taxpayers League and other community based organizations will also be invited to participate. IHSS is a state mandated program. The fact it is growing should not be a surprise to anyone. IHSS is doing a great job because more people are staying in their own homes instead of going to nursing homes. Ms. Lyall said she would be interested in being on the task force. They will meet at least once a month and there will be one representative from the IHSSAC, plus two provider and two consumer representatives. The IHSS Task Force grew out of the Elder Death Review Team meetings. The District Attorney's office suggested that all caregivers be fingerprinted and that training be mandatory for all caregivers. It would cost over \$900,000 to fingerprint and \$775,000 to train everyone. Ms. Biegacki, Ms. Powmacwizalord, Ms. Kinley and Ms. Blockmon would also be interested in being on the committee.

V. Committee Matters:

- A. CICA – Ms. Kinley said that CICA is in recess for the month of December.
 - 1) CICA Conference
 - a) Ms. Kinley attended the CICA conference and shared a written report.
 - b) Ms. Lyall also attended the conference and submitted a report at the November 19, 2008 meeting.
 - c) Ms. Powmacwizalord attended the conference and her report was included in the packet that was distributed today to IHSSAC members. She said interpreters were a problem and that there are over 900 different sign languages.

- B. Education – The December 11, 2008 Education, Finance and Quality Assurance meetings were cancelled by Ms. Stuart. Mr. Godoy asked about the committee having a retreat in 2009.

VI. New Business:

- A. Special Meeting

Ms. Lynch said that there will be a special meeting for the IHSS Task Force presentation in January and possible meeting times were discussed. This meeting will allow the IHSS Task Force to share information with the committee and get their input. It is very important that all members attend.

VII. Old Business: No report.

VIII. Public Comments:

Ms. Biegacki asked about an IHSSAC new member orientation. It will be scheduled in early January.

IX. Adjournment: Ms. Lyall adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.