

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 16, 2012

Attendees: Bob Blymyer, Antoinette Lopez-Coles, Francisco Godoy, Melissa Kinley, Leoma Lee, Chandra Livingston-Blanks, Stormaliza Powmacwizalord, Carolyn Rose, and Cordia Wade

Absent: Denise Blockmon

Staff & Guests: Matthew Call (Interpreter), Deanna Jekayinfa (PA), Caleb Lopez (Interpreter), Rick Simonson (PA) Vita Tsymbol (Fraud Task Force), Floridalma Valencia (IHSS), and Laura West (Fraud Task Force)

I. Call to Order 1:15 by Chair: Melissa Kinley (a quorum was present)

II. Introductions

III. Consent Calendar

- A. Agenda: Reviewed/Approved
- B. Minutes: Reviewed/Approved with changes.
- C. Chairs Report, Melissa Kinley, IHSS Advisory Committee Chair

IV. Reports

A. IHSS Social Services: Floridalma Valencia - A program manager has not yet been hired to fill behind Sharon Rehm. Two new supervisors have been hired, one over a new intake unit of 8 staff. Right now there is a hiring freeze (from May – July). Four hundred intake cases have been assigned to continuing case workers to triage and to bring intake up to date.

B. Public Authority, Acting Executive Director, Rick Simonson – The Governor's May revised budget addresses what is now identified as a \$16 billion deficit. The governor is suggesting a combination of cuts and new taxes to address the anticipated shortfall. Recommended cuts impacting the IHSS program are: 1) 7% reduction in IHSS services scheduled to go into effect on August 1, 2012 (the current 3.6% cut expires on June 30, 2012); 2) Elimination of domestic and related services when a non-IHSS recipient lives in the home with the recipient.

Coordinated Care Initiative (formerly called Dual Eligible): Most IHSS recipients would go into the Coordinated Care Incentive (CCI) program, under

which an HMO would manage the medical care and long-term care services of members enrolled in both Medicare and Medi-Cal. It is expected savings will come from better management and coordination of services. Start date has been pushed back to March 1, 2013, for the four pilot counties to begin participating under the CCI (the State Department of Health Services is seeking to expand participation to eight counties).

The 20% budget cut and reducing the State's participation in IHSS wages is still on the table, but no savings have been identified in the budget, suggesting that no changes are imminent.

A statewide IHSS security breach was disclosed last Friday, no further information yet about missing data or direction from the State of California. Expect more information any day.

Community First Choice Option (CFCO) increases federal participation by 6%. The state must respond to a number of questions from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). When the responses are submitted, CMS has 90 days to respond. The CFCO requirements include optional recipient training on employer skills.

Public Authority education continues with two classes given per month: one core class and one non-core class. For consumer education, IHSS PA staff goes out to congregate living facilities and provide classes.

The current IHSS Advisory Committee Brochure needs to be updated (old brochure distributed).

Still in negotiations with the union.

- C. IHSS Fraud Task Force, Deputy District Attorney, Laura West– 46 Felonies and warrants were filed in during the months of March and April 2012. . Cases involving \$1,500 or less to be handled by a paralegal via the fraud recovery desk. The Fraud Recovery Desk has recovered \$83,229.55 from the period of July 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012. Collaboration between agencies is the key to reducing fraud in IHSS Services. Unless funding is identified, the DA IHSS Fraud Task Force may be shut down at the end of this fiscal year. If that happens, a final report will be given in June.

V. Committee Matters

- A. CICA – The State Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees will be taking up the IHSS budget next week (5/22 and 5/24). If you cannot make it to either session, it is possible to watch on-line. Website calduals.org has information about the CCI initiative developments.

June 7th is the CICA Regional Conference Training in Sacramento.

CICA is against a statewide bargaining unit, registry, orientation etc. You should let your state legislators and the governor know if you have an opinion about the proposed changes.

VI. New Business

- A. Nominations were accepted for Chair and Vice-Chair for FY 12-13. Cordia Wade declined to be nominated. Leoma Lee was nominated for chair and Chandra Livingston-Blanks was nominated for Vice-chair. With no other nominations, an election was held and the new officers were approved unanimously.(Blymyer/Godoy)
- B. Leoma Lee: Olmstead Conference – It is important to optimize IHSS to keep people out of institutions. Consumers need to talk about hardships of managed care or they may be involuntarily enrolled into a new HMO medical plan. There are currently 22 states using the dual eligible plan and it does not work. Less experienced doctors may sign up to be Medi-Cal service providers so health plans may be only adequate or below adequate. The State will handle all funding associated with the dual eligible program. Concern was raised that the initial start will be 2013 with only a 7 month pilot program (not enough time for a pilot). How do we know everyone in the dual eligible program will get proper care? Another concern is the cost associated with transferring to a new provider network. Many doctors charge .25 cents a page and many consumers cannot afford to pay for their records to be copied for the HMO. When inquiring about your medical rights, ask how you can opt out of the program. If writing to the legislator and/or governor, make letters clear, concise, and limited to one page. Presenters included: Deborah Doctor, - Legislative Advocate and Kevin Prindiville – National Senior Citizen Law Center – Oakland

VII Old Business

- A. None

VIII Public Comment

- A. None