

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes

February 19, 2014

Attendees: Denise Blockmon, Francisco Godoy, Leoma Lee, Antoinette Lopez-Coles, Chandra Livingston-Blanks, and Stormaliza Powmacwizalord

Absent: Bob Blymyer, Carolyn Rose, and Jacqueline Spagner

Staff & Guests: Deanna Jekayinfa, Caleb Lopez (ASL Interpreter), Teresita Perez, Alice Polson, Rick Simonson (PA), Heather Sheridan (ASL Interpreter) and Michael (Taps) Taporco

I. Called to Order at 1:15 by Chair Leoma Lee

II. Introductions

III. Consent Calendar

- A. Agenda –: Approved (Blockman/ Livingston-Blanks)
- B. Minutes –: Approved (Blockman/ Livingston-Blanks)
- C. Chair’s Report: February is Black History Month. Chandra Livingston-Blanks, Vice-Chair, attended a meeting at the State Capitol with Assembly member Mariko Yamada. The meeting focused on Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) for the aging and disabled communities with special focus on financial and cultural impacts. California may be viewed as a trendsetter for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Long Term Services and Supports.

IV. Reports

- A. DHHS-IHSS: No representative present.
- B. Public Authority, Acting Executive Director Rick Simonson – SEIU has submitted an initiative to the State of California to mandate IHSS provider training and automatic wage increases. The initiative requires over a half million signatures from registered voters to get on the November ballot. SEIU’s initiative, if approved by voters, requires 75-hours of paid training for IHSS providers. Training for new providers must be completed within six months of beginning work as an IHSS provider. Current providers will be grand-fathered in and have until 2019 to complete the training requirements. The initiative also provides that when the state minimum wage increases, caregiver’s wage will increase by the same amount. Training would cost \$100 million per year; the automatic wage

increase would cost \$600 million per year. Design of the training will be done through a stakeholder process.

Fair Labor Standards Act: A change in federal law goes into effect on 1/1/15 that extends overtime pay to IHSS caregivers. The governor's proposed budget proposes that IHSS clients limit their providers to 40 hours per week. Clients will need to set up a back up plan/provider to cover any hours over 40 per week. The governor has also proposed the creation of a backup network for those instances when a regular provider fails to show up. Backup network providers will receive a 25% higher rate of pay. Providers will be penalized if they go over the 40 hour weekly maximum. The first time a provider exceeds 40 hours they will receive a warning; the second time a provider goes over 40 hours they will be barred from receiving IHSS payment for one year. Cost in FY 14-15 (half year) \$306 million including \$208 million to administer the no overtime regulations. The cost for FY 15-16 is \$618 million including \$334 million to administer the no overtime regulations.

The change in Federal regulations also adds IHSS payment for time related to medical appointment (now not paid by IHSS). It also provides payment for travel time between client's homes when a provider goes directly from one job site to another.

Concerns: The 40-hour work week schedule will cause a loss of income for many IHSS providers' households, limit consumer choice and lead to increased use of other welfare programs. Consumers in rural areas may have great difficulty finding additional providers. This proposal may lead to IHSS consumers with live-in providers to need an additional live-in provider or two. It is unclear how the proposal relates to consumers with In-Home Operations (IHO) waivers?

A Department of Social Services (CDSS) stakeholder meeting about the governor's IHSS budget proposals will be held Monday, March 3 1:30 – 3:00 pm at the CDSS offices, 744 P Street, Sacramento. Budget hearings are scheduled for March 5, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. and March 15, 2014 (time unknown). IHSS Advisory Committee members may attend and testify on their own behalf, but may not say that any testimony reflects the IHSS Advisory Committee unless the County of Sacramento Board of Supervisors has taken a position on a particular matter. .

AB 485 is a bill that proposes accelerating moving wage and benefit negotiations from county Public Authorities to a statewide Public Authority effective January 1, 2015. If successful, each county will have to make a decision about the on-going need for an IHSS Public Authority. Services now provided by the IHSS Public Authority could stay in a separate entity, could be contracted out or could be moved under the county's IHSS program.

Leoma, Chandra and Rick will meet with the Board of Supervisors Executive Committee on March 13, 2014, at 700 H Street.

V. Committee Matters

A. CICA – Leoma Lee – There is Power Summit on Friday, February 21, from 10 am to 4 pm at the Department of Rehabilitation, 721 Capital Mall Drive. The Summit is sponsored by the Disability Organizing Network and is titled: “How Disability Groups Can Go Forward.” Summit will also be held in San Francisco and Orange County. .

VI. New Business – A motion was made that the County of Sacramento Board of supervisor’s be asked to take a position to oppose the governor’s proposal to limit IHSS payment to 40 hours per week in response to the changes in the Fair Labor Standards Act. (Blockmon/Godoy). Unanimous.

Taps offered space for the IHSS Advisory Committee to have a booth at the Western Festival May 3-4, 2014 or brochures about IHSS services can be provided for general distribution.

VII Old Business - none

VIII Public Comment – none

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.