

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO  
IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
**Draft Minutes**

January 18, 2017

**Attendees:** Denise Blockmon, Francisco Godoy, Deborah Hibbler, Kimberly Lathrop, Leoma Lee, Antoinette Lopez-Coles, Carolyn Rose, Joe Samora, Stormaliza Powmacwizalord, and Suisan Weinheimer-Boyle

**Absent:** None

**Staff & Guests:** Jennifer Bettencourt (DHHS), Adam Cantalou, Deanna Jekayinfa (PA), Linda Loheman (Interpreter), Michelle Martinez (Interpreter), Avenita Middleton, Auriel Palomar (InAlliance), Malisa Ramirea, Rick Simonson (PA), and Vitaliy Tsymbal (DHHS)

- I. Called to Order at 1:03 pm by Chair Joe Samora; a quorum was present.
- II. Introductions
- III. Consent Calendar
  - A. Agenda: Unanimous approval (Lee/Hibbler)
  - B. Minutes: Sept. 21 & Oct. 19 (with correction): Unanimous approval (Rose/Lopez-Coles)
- IV. Reports
  - A. Chairs' Report: No report
  - B. Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 2015: Not present
  - C. Adult and Aging Commission: Not present. Dr. Gordon is now the Adult and Aging Commission Vice-Chair and will no-longer attend IHSS Advisory Committee meetings.
  - D. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Senior and Adult Services, Vitaliy Tsymbal, IHSS Supervisor:

Performance compliance is at 95.5% - recipients are being re-certified within one year. New recipient application rate has decreased from 950 a month to 750 per month.

Intake Social Workers have been volunteering to assist with re-assessments.

The areas of Wilton, Rio Linda and Point Pleasant had flooding. IHSS Social Workers contacted all recipients in these areas and they had no emergency needs.

The termination of the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) may increase the County's share of the IHSS program costs. With that potential, IHSS is self-imposing an internal hiring freeze. Positions on hold: nine Social Workers, one Supervisor, and some support staff. This hold will have no impact on recipients, staff can manage the current caseload.

IHSS has begun offering the option of using electronic versions of recipient forms. The use of electronic forms is not mandatory, hard copy forms are still available.

There are three Social Workers and a Social Services Supervisor that can be contacted through payroll that handle overtime violations. They will assist providers and recipients in understanding the reasons for violations and provide information about completing any necessary paperwork.

Vitaliy Tsymbal is moving to Child Protective Services next month. The new IHSS Program representative is Jennifer Bettencourt.

E. Public Authority: Rick Simonson, Executive Director, IHSS Public Authority:

The budget report through December 31, 2016, is in your handouts.

Violation reports by county. Only one IHSS provider out of all the providers statewide who received the paper work to waive the second violation returned the materials. A number of third time violators were sent the paperwork to complete so that they could waive a violation. Violations are sent for claiming over the maximum hours. The Public Authority covers the violation process during the new provider orientation.

New IHSS provider orientation video from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is coming soon. A video task force meets February 22, 2017, to discuss the new provider video. The draft looks like it will add an additional half-hour on top of the current one-half hour video.

February 6, 2017, our new Social Services Supervisor, Master's Degree, Tonja Edelman will start. She is coming to the IHSS Public Authority from Public Guardians office.

A new federal regulation makes IHSS providers exempt from federal taxes if they live with the recipient. Providers may self-declare their common residence with the recipient to stop federal tax withholding. Just learned the State of California is extending the same exemption.

Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI): – provides that dual eligible (beneficiaries with both Medicare and Medi-Cal) individuals have the option to participate in a managed care organization. This program moved Medicare and Medi-Cal under one umbrella, with the goal of better service coordination. Most who joined the CCI program, now called Cal MediConnect, liked the services. Most IHSS recipients are dual eligible but many opted out of the CCI. The program has not produced the anticipated savings, resulting in the program being cancelled by Governor Brown, based on a State Department of Finance recommendation. The statewide IHSS Authority will be disbanded and bargaining for seven pilot counties will revert to the individual counties. Since fiscal year 2011/12, county costs were fixed in the IHSS program under a Maintenance of Effort (MOE). The MOE is being eliminated and it is possible that the county share could revert to a traditional funding level (about 16% of the total program costs). This could significantly increase costs to the County of Sacramento. The Department of Finance has indicated a willingness to mitigate the costs to counties. The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) and the California Association of Public Authorities (CAPA) are coordinating efforts to respond to the State regarding this matter.

IHSS is currently still in negotiations with the union. The next negotiation session is scheduled for January 31, 2017.

Sacramento County recipients in out-lying areas often find it hard for them to find registry caregivers (Folsom, Rancho Murrieta, Galt and Isleton).

V. Committee Matters – None

VI. California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA) Conference Call:

Introduction of Debbi Thomson, new Deputy Director of the Adult Programs Division at the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). – In 2000 Debbi was with Yolo County APS/IHSS, loaned to state in 2002, then came to Sacramento County until 2016. Her goals are:

- (a) Figure out how to simplify the IHSS program.
- (b) Make the program work for both recipients and providers

Social worker training – Now coordinated by a group from San Diego State University.

Cal MediConnect – bargaining unit for seven pilot counties has been disbanded. Negotiations will go back to the county level.

Karen Kessler – California Association of Public Authorities (CAPA) Executive Director/Lobbyist – went over 1991 re-alignment funding. The IHSS program, in the last 5 years has grown to \$5 billion in the next 5 years will probably double. Reasons for growth:

- (a) Baby Boomers – retiring
- (b) Medi-Cal expansion now includes people 18-64 years old.
- (c) Provider overtime implemented.
- (d) Future increases in minimum wage will drive up IHSS provider pay costs.

County's with current pay of less than \$10.80 will go up to \$11.00 on 1/1/2018. IHSS wages will increase by \$1.00 an hour each year until 2022 when it will cap at \$15.00 per hour. The governor can postpone minimum wage increases if the economy worsens.

The repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) may also impact the IHSS program. One of the proposals is to shift Medi-Cal to a block grant program. Then the State of California would have to decide what to fund, including the IHSS program.

In-Home Operations (IHO) Waiver – no changes

VII. Comments: None

VIII. New Business: None

IX. Public Comment: None

Meeting adjourned at 1:42 pm.

Next meeting is February 15, 2017, 9750 Business Park Drive, Suite 104, Sacramento, CA 95827