

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO  
IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
March 15, 2017

**Attendees:** Denise Blockmon, Francisco Godoy, Deborah Hibbler, Carolyn Rose, Stormaliza Powmacwizalord, and Suisan Weinheimer-Boyle

**Absent:** Kimberly Lathrop, Leoma Lee, Antoinette Lopez-Coles, and Joe Samora

**Staff & Guests:** Jennifer Bettencourt (DHHS), Adam Cantalou, Tonja Edelman (PA), Deanna Jekayinfa (PA), Megan McGeary (ASL interpreter), Josh McHolt (ASL interpreter), Avenita Middleton, Alice Ransom, Sharon Shepard, Robin Shepard, Rick Simonson (PA), and Auriel Taurone (InAlliance)

- I. Called to Order at 1:03 pm by Vice Chair Deborah Hibbler; a quorum was present.
- II. Introductions
- III. Consent Calendar
  - A. Agenda: Unanimous approval (Blockmon/Rose)
  - B. Minutes: Sept. 21 & Oct. 19 (with correction): Unanimous approval (Blockmon/Rose)
- 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, Jennifer Bettencourt, IHSS Supervisor:

The new Division Manager is Ruth McKenzie, whose vacant position Program Manager position has been filled by Cindy Wang. Cindy was the Quality Assurance (QA) unit supervisor, then became Program Manager. The QA supervisor position is on hold. Currently, IHSS has an internal freeze they are not hiring new employees.

Positions that will remain vacant due to the internal freeze:

- Eight or nine Social Worker positions
- Supervisor position vacated by Vitaliy.
- Program Planner vacated by Cindi Wang
- Several vacant support positions

IHSS received 800 applications in February, up from 700 in January. Intake social workers are helping with the continuing caseloads to complete reassessments, 95% one-year renewal rate.

Two Sacramento County Social Workers are participating in an electronic form pilot beginning March 2017. Recipients will electronically sign forms and copies are either printed and mailed or emailed to the recipient. This will cut down on internal paperwork; the paperwork is housed in the file-net system. – This is an optional program for recipients.

Social Workers are to refer any overtime or travel time violations to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Social Worker of the Day.

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

Introduction of Tonja Edelman, new Education and Registry Supervisor – received a Bachelor's in Social Work and a Minor in Gerontology, from California State University, Fresno and has a Master's degree in Social Work from California State University, Sacramento. Tonja has previously worked for the Sacramento County Public Guardian/Conservator, Sacramento County Mental Health and for a variety of geriatrics programs. Tonja is planning to focus more on customer service  
Current changes include:

1. Assignment of registry lists will now be by last name instead of round robin.
2. Registry Specialists will call recipients before creating list.
3. Specialists will follow-up with recipients of within 5-7 days after the list was sent.
4. Looking to recruit social worker, gerontology, and nursing students as IHSS providers.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has established work groups to provide feedback on the new Provider Enrollment video. The current video is from 2012 and there have been many changes since then. CDSS was waiting for overtime/travel time information before producing the new video. There is a suggestion that the new video should not have information about exceptions that impact a small group of IHSS providers; instead another video or materials should be created and made available to impacted providers. The new video will be closed captioned; a request was submitted to have an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter in the corner. Thank you Stormaliza for that

suggestion! The video will be available in the four State threshold languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, and Western Armenian.

IHSS Public Authority will be expanding decubitus ulcer (pressure sore) information in provider orientations. This was prompted from the Elder Death Review Team report that documented during autopsies a large number of people had pressure sores. Making sure recipients move every two hours, good hydration and healthy eating will help to lessen pressure sores. It is very important to find pressure sores at stage one. Pressure sores start as red spots in areas of boney extrusions. They can progress through four stages, with the last stage revealing muscle or bone in opening. It is very difficult to treat late stage pressure sores, so prevention and early identification is critical.

Hand out about IHSS exemptions: Two exemptions have been established to allow certain providers to work more than the established weekly hour's caps. The first exemption is for relative providers who worked more than the cap on February 1, 2016 and live in the same household. 1,354 of this exemption have been granted statewide. The second exemption is for providers of recipients who have complex medical or behavioral needs and it is difficult to find providers due to remoteness of the recipient's home or language barriers. 52 of this exemption have been granted statewide.

Termination of Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) –Seven pilot counties, Los Angeles County, Orange County, Riverside County, San Bernardino County, Santa Clara County, San Mateo County and San Diego, will shift from Statewide Authority bargaining to county bargaining. On July 1, 2017, the county share of IHSS costs will revert to 16-17% of the IHSS program costs (for the last five years, county share of costs have been fixed). Statewide, this will cost counties \$623 million; in Sacramento County this cost shift equates to \$25-\$30 million. California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is taking the lead in negotiating with the State about the impact of the CCI cancellation.

V. Committee Matters – None

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

There was a proposal by the State Assembly Budget Subcommittee to set aside money to pay the county share for next few years with reimbursement coming out of 1991 Realignment funding. The problem is Realignment funding is two years behind in payments and, if there is not enough money coming in, then the state does not have to pay. CSAC is pushing to maintain the current Maintenance of Effort arrangement that fixes county costs.

VII. Comments:

1. Stormaliza Powmacwizalord suggested offering a sign language class for caregivers because it is difficult for her to understand. Deaf culture is important for the caregiver to understand– IHSS Public Authority is working on recruiting hearing impaired providers for the registry.
2. Bonnie Newman – How many providers actually qualify for overtime? – Currently there are 300 cases eligible for overtime in Sacramento County.
3. Denise Blockmon – What is causing delays in DOJ results for the Statewide Registry? The statewide registry requires that all home care workers (agencies, and private) obtain a DOJ background check. The delays described are not being experience by the IHSS program. Indeed, there are reports that IHSS DOJ results are coming more quickly in recent months.
4. Auriel Taurone – Why are there different orientation rules?
5. Stormaliza Powmacwizalord- To prevent pressure sores, it is important that wheelchairs be kept clean. Mineral oil can be used to treat pressure sores.
6. IHSS Recertification – During the IHSS recertification social workers remind recipients about health, safety and fraud prevention. Sometimes social workers do unannounced home visits.
7. Deborah Hibbler – the counties should not have to take on the burden of the 16-17% increase due to the ending of Cal Medi Connect (CCI).
8. Bonnie Newman – 63 people from Calaveras County signed a letter to the State Assembly about the disapproval of the governor’s proposal to end the CCI and shift costs to counties.

VIII. New Business:

1. Denise Blockmon made a motion to review the Supported life literature before sending someone to the Conference in April. – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carolyn Rose. No action.
2. Denise Blockmon made a motion to send two IHSS Advisory Committee members to the Supported life Conference in April. – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deborah Hibbler. – Passed unanimously. Deborah Hibbler and Stormaliza Powmacwizalord will be attending the Supported Life Conference. The IHSS Advisory Committee will pay a per diem of up to \$200 for required attendants.

IX. Public Comment: None

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Next meeting is April 19, 2017, 9750 Business Park Drive, Suite 104, Sacramento, CA 95827