



**Sonoma County IHSS Public Authority
Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes of March 30, 2015**

Present: Stan Gow, Chair
Nancy Hall, Vice Chair
Joann Keyston, Secretary
Richard Ruge
Carol Taylor
Sachiko Williams

Absent: Eric Glentzer

Staff: Michael Humphrey, Manager – IHSS Public Authority
Diane Kaljian, Director – Adult & Aging Division
John Chan, Supervisor – IHSS Public Authority
Josh Gottschalk, Program Planner/Analyst – Adult & Aging Division
Allegra Wilson, Secretary – Adult & Aging Division

Guests: None

1. Call to Order/Review Agenda

Gow called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. Public Comment – None

3. Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2014

Approved as submitted.

4. IHSS Program Updates

- A. Kaljian reported that the Human Services Department presented an “Unmet Needs” report to the Board of Supervisors, which resulted in 38.5 new positions for the Adult and Aging Division. Kaljian indicated that Josh Gottschalk will be filling in for Eric Glentzer at today’s meeting.
- B. Gottschalk reported that the Unmet Needs report resulted in 23 new positions in IHSS, including 18 new Social Workers, 2 Supervisors, 1 Section Manager, 1 Micrographic Technician, 0.5 Program Planning & Evaluation Analyst, and 0.5 Home Care Support Specialist. Of these new positions, 13 of 18 Social Workers have been hired, and the

Section Manager, Program Planning & Evaluation Analyst, and Home Care Support Specialist have been filled. The Intake Unit has been doubled, and ongoing cases will be assessed in a timely manner

- C. IHSS is working towards a paperless case management system. A web intake process will be implemented in the coming months. IHSS has implemented a Care Transitions program for individuals with pending IHSS applications.
- D. A Quality Assurance Social Worker was hired last year, with good results. That individual has been promoted, but IHSS is in the process of filling that position. Consistent and accurate IHSS services are the goal. The State of CA recently monitored Sonoma County's IHSS program. The reviewers were pleased and impressed with the program, documentation, and client engagement.

5. Federal Overtime Regulations

Overtime provisions have not been implemented based on an injunction. Prior to the ruling to halt overtime, IHSS and the Public Authority worked diligently to prepare for the implementation. Staff, clients, and providers were trained on new paperwork and new requirements. 35 trainings were presented all over the county with over 900 clients and providers attending. Social Workers were trained on new assessments. Kaljian stated that the conversation about overtime is not over at the State or Federal level. The loss of the opportunity to improve care and services is disappointing.

6. Coordinated Care Initiative

Humphrey discussed points of interest and concern with the Coordinated Care Initiative, and referenced a PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda packet. Alameda County and Orange County did not implement their programs with the rest of the pilot counties. Cal MediConnect is the project name for the Coordinated Care Initiative. Enrollment in most counties was planned to occur over a 12 month period, with individuals enrolling based on their birth month. San Mateo County was able to do their enrollment in one month because, like Sonoma County, they have only one health plan for Medi-Cal. The high opt-out rate in some counties is concerning to the state and to those counties. Often individuals choose to opt-out because they would lose their primary care physicians. The opt-out rate is about 10% higher in the IHSS population than the non-IHSS population.

Kaljian reported that the Coordinated Care Initiative includes a Statewide Public Authority. The Statewide Public Authority would be the employer of record, and negotiations would be between the statewide body and the

union. The Statewide Public Authority consists of the Director of CDSS, the Director of Healthcare Services, the Director of Finance, and two county representatives. The two appointed county representatives are from Ventura and Contra Costa counties. There is also an Advisory Committee of similar composition to that of the county Public Authority. Applications are currently being accepted.

7. IHSS Provider Training Efforts

Humphrey reported that he has been meeting with the West County Community Health Centers regarding a potential pilot project with an emphasis on providing skill development training for IHSS providers who reside in the lower Russian River area.

The Medicaid 1115 Waiver was submitted last week. It funds Medicaid/Medi-Cal programs, including public hospital programs, the Coordinated Care Initiative, and other programs and projects throughout the State. A paid provider training program was requested by several entities. The details will be worked out in the coming months.

8. Statistics and Updates

Chan reported that there has been a significant decline in eligible caregivers on the Registry. Matches are high in some months and low in others. The Urgent Substitute Provider Program use is steady. The Home Care Aides are now partially employed as clerical staff, which explains the decrease in field work in that program.

Humphrey reported that the numbers remain pretty consistent for the new providers attending new provider orientation and being mailed by Live Scan packets.

Gottschalk reported that the spike in provider growth is a reporting error, not an actual spike. There has been an increase in IHSS recipients over the past year, with the program growing about 5-6% per year. Authorized hours increased in June 2014 because of an additional funding source which removed hour caps for certain clients. Reassessment Performance is targeted to 90%, but has consistently been between 80-84% over the course of this year. Total Hours Paid to Providers has been consistent since the end of 2013, when there was a reinstatement of hours.

9. Budget and Legislative Update

A. Budget –

- The Governor's proposed budget includes funding to reinstate the 7% cut in IHSS hours. There is funding in the budget for provider overtime although federal implementation was halted.

- Action to support the Governor's proposal to reinstate the 7%: MSC Keyston/Hall; motion carried.
- Action to support IHSS provider overtime in California: MSC Keyston/Ruge; motion carried.
- Humphrey reported that there are budget requests for reinstatement of aging programs in the State of CA.
 - Action to support Aging programs: MSC Keyston/Taylor; motion carried.

B. Legislation –

- Humphrey reviewed current legislation, including Paid Sick Leave, Coordinated Care Initiative enhancements, Statewide Public Authority/Collective Bargaining throughout California, Expediting of Fingerprinting, Universal Assessment Reports, Home Upkeep Allowance, Authorized Representative, End of Life Options Act, Elder Abuse, and Reading Services for IHSS.
 - Action to support AB97, AB470, AB 664, AB1235, AB1436, and SB199: Keyston/Ruge MSC; motion carried.

10. Correspondence; Announcements & Community Meeting Reports

- Keyston reported that Jack Horn is retiring from Partnership. Thank you to Mr. Horn, and wishes for a happy retirement.
- Taylor reported that Supervisor Zane has asked for a report on what county services IHSS Providers use.
- Humphrey announced a volunteer recognition event at the Fairgrounds on Thursday, April 16th. Members of this Committee are invited; please RSVP to Humphrey by noon tomorrow.
- Ruge announced that the Sonoma County Voluntary Organizations Assisting in Disasters group is being reconvened.

11. Adjournment

Gow adjourned the meeting at 4:03.

Submitted by Allegra Wilson, Secretary