



SONOMA COUNTY
IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of January 24, 2011

Present: Mary Bodily
Gary Fontenot, Ex-officio member
Stan Gow, Vice Chair
Joann Keyston, Chair
Richard Ruge
Sachiko Williams
Herb Willsmore

Absent: Nancy Hall, Secretary

Staff: Michael Humphrey, Manager – IHSS Public Authority
Diane Kaljian, Director – Adult & Aging Division
Lorna Schreck, Secretary – IHSS Public Authority

Guests: Ilene Moran, Manager - HSD Fiscal

1. Call to Order/Review Agenda

J. Keyston called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

2. Public Comments - none

3. Approval of Minutes

Members accepted the minutes for the May 24, 2010 Advisory Committee meeting as presented with a correction of minor typographical error.

Members accepted the minutes for the September 22, 2010 Advisory Committee meeting as presented.

4. Statistics and Updates

A. D. Kaljian commented that the December statistics were remarkable in lieu of staff's mandatory time off.

B. Updates

1) IHSS Program

a) G. Fontenot reported that the legislated 3.6% reduction to all IHSS recipients goes into effect on February 1. Current legislation states that this reduction will stop on July 1, 2012. There are no appeal rights for recipients. Should clients need additional care, they need a reassessment by the social worker.

- b) IHSS Integrity Unit – G. Fontenot announced that Dede Lundquist is the new fraud investigator, who will work closely with Kerry Bargsten, the social worker assigned to this unit.
- c) M. Humphrey reported that other legislation taking effect February 1 relates to an expanded list of disqualifying crimes.
- d) D. Kaljian reported that Sonoma County has seen significantly less than 1% fraud, although the State previously projected fraud at 25%.

2) IHSS Public Authority and Registry Update

- a) M. Humphrey reported that Registry is open again and accepting applications. Applicants must have already completed the enrollment process as the process takes 4-8 weeks.

Discussion included: concerns about prospective caregivers who would like to work through the Registry and the Registry does not accept them because they are not yet eligible to work for IHSS; and, clients who are encouraged to find their own caregiver as the Registry does not have enough available caregivers right now.

- b) M. Humphrey reported that the Public Authority collaborated with the Redwood Caregiver Resource Center for an Alzheimer's workshop in November. Over 50 people attended the workshop.

3) Provider Enrollment Update

- a) M. Humphrey reported that in November/December 2009 and January 2010, staff focused enrollment efforts on New Providers and Registry Providers.
- b) Prior to initiating the process for existing providers, significant enhancements were made to the CareTracker database system to allow for tracking systems, letter generating functions (staff generated over 26,000 letters), and other relevant functions.
- c) DOJ Background Checks: to date, Sonoma County processed 5,500 DOJ Background Checks with only 24 deemed ineligible.
- d) Orientations: Staff held 45 community orientations for existing providers at Veterans buildings in Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Cloverdale, Guerneville, and Sonoma as well as at the Petaluma Community Center,
- e) Status after the July 1 Deadline: approximately 1,500 providers had not completed the enrollment process; the State extended the

- f) From July 1 through December 22, staff held 20 Drop-In Paperwork Sessions. Payroll terminated 195 providers who did not complete the provider enrollment effective January 1.
- g) Staff held a drop-in session on January 18. About 12 caregivers came in to complete the enrollment process. Staff is dealing with all other terminated providers on a case-by-case basis.
- h) Staff is now holding weekly orientations for new providers, with an average of 50 caregivers invited to each orientation.

5. Budget and Legislative Update and Advocacy

- A. M. Humphrey distributed an update of the Governor's budget proposals and reviewed several of the items.
- B. Members and staff discussed and reviewed scenarios and cited examples concerning the proposed legislation.
- C. M. Humphrey distributed the list of Senate and Assembly members sitting on budget committees and subcommittees. He also included a couple dates for upcoming legislative hearings.

D. Action

- 1) M. Bodily made a motion to send a letter opposing:
 - a) Across-the-Board Reduction to Service Hours
 - b) Eliminating Domestic & Related Services for Certain Recipients
 - c) Eliminating IHSS Services for Recipients Without Physician Certification
 - d) Eliminating State Funding for IHSS Advisory Committees
- 2) R. Ruge seconded the motion
- 3) Public Comment: none
- 4) Members briefly discussed the impact of the budget cuts and asked to have the letters e-mailed to legislators.
- 5) The motion carried unanimously

E. Action

- 1) S. Gow made a motion to send a letter opposing the MSSP Elimination.
- 2) H. Willsmore seconded the motion.
- 3) Public Comment: none
- 4) Members briefly discussed the impact of the budget cuts and asked to have the letters e-mailed to legislators.
- 5) The motion passed unanimously.

F. Staff will provide Medi-Cal and SSI budget proposals for review, discussion, and possible action during the next meeting.

6. Work Session – Legislative & Public Policy Platform

- A. M. Humphrey provided a draft of the Legislative & Public Policy Platform and he reviewed each point.
- B. Discussion included the following:
 - 1) This policy is helpful when meeting with new Legislators.
 - 2) Add a statement defining IHSS in the State and in the County using statistical and geographical data.

7. Public Comments – None

8. Executive Committee Report

- A. J. Keyston reported that the Executive Committee reviewed items on today's agenda and the Work Plan Calendar.
- B. J. Keyston commented that although there are two vacancies at this time, staff would hold recruitment efforts until the legislative process determines the status of IHSS Advisory Committees.
- C. The Executive Committee participated in a conference call on January 10th following the Governor's budget proposal
- D. The Executive Committee plans to meet with one or two legislators between now and the next Advisory Committee meeting.

9. Election of Officers

- A. J. Keyston reminded everyone that nominations for officers were closed during the September 2010 meeting. G. Fontenot reminded members that the proposed slate of officers includes: Joann Keyston as Chair; Stan Gow as Vice Chair; and Nancy Hall as Secretary.

B. ACTION

- 1) R. Ruge made a motion to elect the slate of officers.
- 2) H. Willsmore seconded the motion.
- 3) Public Comment: none
- 4) Discussion: none
- 5) The motion passed unanimously.

10. Correspondence; Announcements & Community Meeting Reports

- A. S. Gow reported that the turnout was low for the Tech Expo in October. The weather was wet and it was on a Saturday this year. M. Humphrey staffed the Public Authority booth and J. Keyston and S. Gow volunteered to assist.
- B. R. Ruge announced that on March 24 at the American Red Cross Office the DV4VP is hosting a discussion about Disaster Preparedness.

11. Agenda Topics for the next meeting, which will be held on Monday, March 28, 2010

- A. Regular Reports, including Statistics, Updates, Budget and Legislation
- B. Work session: Provider Training Options
- C. Additional Budget Items
- D. Ethics Training (AB1234)

12. Adjournment

- J. Keyston adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Submitted by Lorna Schreck, Secretary