



SONOMA COUNTY
IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

3725 Westwind Blvd., P.O. Box 1949, Santa Rosa, California 95402
Phone: 707•565•5700 Fax: 707•565•5720



IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of March 22, 2010

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

Absent: Gary Fontenot, Ex-officio member
Marie White
Herb Willsmore

Staff: Michael Humphrey, Manager – IHSS Public Authority
John Chan, Registry Supervisor – IHSS Public Authority
Carol Rex, Program Manager - IHSS
Lorna Schreck, Secretary – IHSS Public Authority

Guests:

1. Call to Order/Review Agenda

J. Keyston called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m.

2. Public Comments – none

3. Approval of Minutes

Members accepted the minutes for the January 25, 2010 Advisory Committee meeting as presented.

4. Statistics and Updates

A. IHSS Public Authority Statistics

- 1) M. Humphrey responded to questions about the number of eligible slots for benefits, which decreased from 606 to 585. He explained this was due to the increased cost of the health care plan and the MOU capped funding at \$0.60 per hour.
- 2) M. Humphrey explained that due to changes in the tracking software, statistics for the new provider enrollment process are not available.

- 3) As of today, staff has mailed the Live Scan packet to all of the in-county IHSS caregivers. There are approximately 50 out-of-county caregivers, and Payroll is reviewing them for status before staff begins mailing to them.
- 4) Seven hundred forty-four people have completed the new orientation; 190 are scheduled for upcoming orientations.
- 5) Six hundred two people have completed the enrollment process and received notification of eligibility.

B. Provider Enrollment Update

- 1) The strongest concern voiced by the caregivers is the cost of the background check; followed by the worry that the background check could cause them to lose their job.
- 2) Feedback from social workers indicates that the caregivers who have gone through the new Orientation are working better with their recipients.
- 3) Caregivers who are eligible in one county must bring in a copy of their eligibility letter from that county and be fingerprinted in this county.

C. IHSS Program Update

- 1) C. Rex reviewed IHSS Program Integrity. She explained that Kerry Bargsten is working in her new position to educate recipients and caregivers. The new Investigator should begin working in June, splitting time between the Adult and Aging office and the Special Investigations Unit office. Members shared concerns and stories about recipient issues, such as hospital staff asking IHSS recipient patients to have their IHSS caregiver come in and assist.
- 2) C. Rex updated members on the status of Recipient fingerprinting. The State is piloting this process in two counties using an apparatus the size of a brick, but much lighter, which takes a photograph and fingerprints. Eventually the State will roll this process out to all counties.
- 3) C. Rex reported on a statewide error rate study, which correlates timesheets to the time a recipient would have been in the hospital. The State identified 97 providers in Sonoma County. Payroll reviewed the 97 cases and found 61 providers who had claimed

D. IHSS Public Authority Changes

- 1) With all efforts focused on provider enrollments, the training program remains suspended and there is no funding for the newsletter.

5. Budget and Legislative Update and Advocacy

- A. M. Humphrey distributed and reviewed the Legislative Summary, which listed seven bills related to IHSS and nine other bills related to other programs impacting seniors and persons with disabilities.
- B. M. Humphrey distributed a list of the members of the California Senate and Assembly Budget subcommittees that deal with IHSS and other health and human services programs.

C. **Action**

- 1) M. Bodily made a motion to send letters opposing cuts to the IHSS program.
- 2) S. Gow seconded the motion
- 3) Members briefly discussed the budget cuts.
- 4) The motion passed unanimously.

6. Work Session – Brain Storming Caregiver Training Options

- A. M. Humphrey commented that the Public Authority hopes to offer caregiver training classes in the next fiscal year. He reported that other service providers have asked for our caregiver training mailing list in order to invite them to workshops and training classes that may benefit IHSS caregivers.
- B. Braining Storming Ideas
 - 1) Prioritize class topics to help reduce workers comp claims such as back injuries
 - 2) Volunteers to do trainings
 - 3) Red Cross & Disaster Preparedness - Train the trainers
 - 4) Connect with Redwood Caregiver Resource Center
 - 5) Offer website training via CAPA
 - 6) Offer the Fall Prevention Training Program

- 7) There is money for in-house stipends
- 8) Offer a class on lifting/moving quads and using Hoyer Lifts
- 9) Have a Physical Therapist as a trainer
- 10) Connect with the Junior College
- 11) Investigate the IHSS Training program from Southern California, sponsored by the Union
- 12) Create an e-mail caregiver mailing list
- 13) Consider IHSS caregivers who need Continuing Education Units

7. Public Comments – None

8. Executive Committee Report

J. Keyston reported that the Executive Committee reviewed the agenda for today's meeting and discussed visiting legislators.

9. Correspondence; Announcements & Community Meeting Reports

- A. N. Hall reported that the Executive Committee met with Assembly Member Wesley Chesbro, who was very supportive of the IHSS program. He asked that Sonoma County provide him with a statistical update regarding the provider enrollment process prior to the Assembly Budget Subcommittee hearing on IHSS.
- B. N. Hall met with Veronica Stone (representative for Assembly Member Noreen Evans) and found her supportive of IHSS issues.
- C. The Executive Committee will be meeting with Assembly Member Jared Huffman on April 9 in Petaluma at 2:30pm.
- D. S. Gow reported that he attended the Managed Medi-Cal Consumer Advisory Committee meeting. Discussion included consumer surveys and client services.
- E. J. Keyston reported that she attended an Area Agency on Aging meeting that covered issues around Assisted Living.

10. Agenda Topics for the next meeting, which will be held on Monday, May 24, 2010

- A. Regular Reports, including Statistics, Updates,
- B. May Revise - Budget and Legislation
- C. Update on New Provider Enrollment Requirements
- D. Nominating Committee

11. Adjournment

J. Keyston adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by Lorna Schreck, Secretary