



SONOMA COUNTY

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes of April 2, 2012

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

Absent: Gary Fontenot, Ex-officio member
Herb Willsmore

Staff: Michael Humphrey, Manager – IHSS Public Authority
Diane Kaljian, Director – Adult & Aging Division
John Chan, Supervisor – IHSS Public Authority
Joanne DeAlejandro, Secretary – Adult & Aging Division

Guests: Shareefa Joseph, SEIU-UHW

1. Call to Order/Review Agenda

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

2. **Public Comments:** S. Joseph, representative for SEIU-UHW, has been in contact with caregivers to get their input regarding the proposed change of the IHSS Advisory Committee to the Public Authority Advisory Committee. She requested at least two provider representatives on the committee.

3. Approval of Minutes – June 27, 2011

Motion was made by S. Gow, seconded by R. Ruge to accept the minutes of the June 27, 2011 Advisory Committee meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Eliminate IHSS Advisory Committee & Establish Public Authority Advisory Committee

M. Humphrey explained that action was taken by the Advisory Committee in June 2011 and the item was on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors in December 2011. However, there were procedural questions by Board members and the CAO's office, which resulted in the issue being brought back to the IHSS Advisory Committee for review and action. Attachment A provides background information to support eliminating the IHSS Advisory Committee and to establish a Public Authority Advisory Committee, and Attachment B is a draft ordinance that must be approved by the Board of

Supervisors. Last March the Legislature took action to eliminate funding for the IHSS Advisory Committee and also eliminated the mandate for the Committee, i.e., making it an option. The requirement for a Public Authority Advisory Committee was not changed. The State provided funding of \$3,000 for the Public Authority to operate the Public Authority Advisory Committee. The role and function of the Public Authority Advisory Committee would remain the same. In essence, there would simply be a change of the name.

With reference to the proposed reduction from two members to one member who are current or former IHSS providers, S. Gow commented about the difficulty in finding provider representation on the Advisory Committee, noting we have advertised for the past three years without success.

With reference to the proposal to have only one meeting of the Advisory Committee annually, M. Humphrey explained that special meetings could be scheduled if necessary. He reminded everyone that funding has been reduced from \$52,000 to \$3,000 for the committee, and most of that funding applies to staff time.

Kaljjan restated the proposal will follow state law and to change the name, we will need to change our ordinance. That process needs to be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Draft Ordinance – M. Humphrey reviewed the proposed membership changes under SECTION I of the draft ordinance. The number of members would be reduced from 10 to 8.

R. Ruge supports the committee's activities, but felt one meeting a year didn't seem to be too effective. It was noted, however, that the support staff used for meetings has been eliminated, and there would be a hardship now to staff the meetings.

S. Williams stated she would like to see at least one more IHSS provider on the committee.

Public Comment: – S. Joseph expressed concern about only one meeting a year. She asked if two Advisory Committee meetings a year were possible, or enhanced communication (e-mails, texting, etc.) to caregivers and consumers. She would like to see two IHSS provider positions. She reported they do have a provider interested in being on the Advisory Committee.

Action: Motion was made by R. Ruge, seconded by S. Williams, to recommend approval of the draft ordinance, with a change to keep the membership of the Committee at ten, including two provider representatives.

Discussion: Keyston stated she would not have a problem with having a second IHSS provider and that a special meeting could be called if necessary. R. Ruge stated he would like to look at input from providers and consumers.

Motion carried with one nay vote (S. Gow).

5. Public Authority Advisory Committee By-laws

M. Humphrey reviewed certain provisions of the draft Public Authority Advisory Committee of Sonoma County By-Laws as follows:

- Terms of membership changed from two years to four years
- Election of officers to be held every three years
- Streamline officer election process (can happen all in one meeting)
- Add policy for filling a vacancy on the Executive Committee

Public Comment: S. Joseph thanked the committee and expressed appreciation for the committee members' work.

Action:

- Motion was made by R. Ruge, seconded by S. Gow, to accept the draft Public Authority Advisory Committee of Sonoma County By-laws (Attachment C) as amended; membership will consist of ten members--five who are current or previous users (consumers) of personal assistance services, and two members who are current or former IHSS providers.
- Discussion: No further discussion.
- Motion Carried.

6. Statistics and Updates

J. Chan summarized the Registry statistics and explained how a client may opt to waive requirements that would normally cause a caregiver to be ineligible. However, certain crimes (Tier 1) cannot be waived. There has been a decrease recently in registry providers, but attempts are being made to increase the numbers.

D. Kaljian noted the IHSS caseload figures are rather stable, and that the numbers that are in our system are what is in our payroll system. Paid hours increased in January due to timesheets from December. In response to the reason for cases closed, D.Kaljian explained the client may no longer need

IHSS services, no longer may qualify financially, may enter a nursing facility, or may have deceased.

7. Budget and Legislative Update

M. Humphrey reported on the Governor's proposed 2012-13 State budget. The 20% reduction in IHSS, triggered in December by insufficient State revenue, ended up in the courts; there is a restraining order preventing implementation of the reduction. The 20% reduction remains in the Governor's budget proposal with the Administration's expectation that the State will prevail in the courts. The Governor also proposes to eliminate domestic and related services for individuals living in the household of another. The final proposal moves IHSS over into integrated managed care as a managed care benefit. Several counties would implement the process in the first year, others in the following year, and then eventually all counties. "Trailer bill language" was available last week which further defines the proposal. It specifies that IHSS would become a managed care benefit only in counties having a dual eligible (Medi-Cal/Medicare) pilot project. It is expected that managed care plans would contract back to the counties for IHSS and Public Authority functions. Currently, there are four pilot projects that are scheduled to be implemented in 2013; the Governor has proposed increasing it to ten. Several organizations have expressed concern about expanding to ten before determining the success of the initial four pilot projects. Our managed care provider (Partnership Health Plan) did not submit a proposal.

D. Kaljian explained the rationale for the proposal is that by combining Medicaid and Medicare on the federal level, funds would be increased at the local level. By providing one "touch point," it is hoped people would receive better services. Part of the proposal is that community-based services, waiver programs, and IHSS would be folded into managed care services.

Discussion:

- R. Ruge indicated we should create a network to disseminate more information.
- J. Keyston expressed concern about the proposed elimination of domestic and related services should the client live in a home with other individuals, perhaps roommates.
- D. Kaljian thought the assumption is that most clients would be living with family; she also noted there is an appeals process.

- M. Humphrey reported that the union supports the Governor's proposal to expand the number of pilot sites from four to ten and to have a statewide Public Authority.

Public Comment: S. Joseph reported that the union is in support of expanded managed care, but commented that the term "managed care" has not really been defined. She wants to be sure care providers are part of the health care team. She is in support of all caregivers being able to bargain together collectively. Things need to change to improve the lives of workers as well as clients.

Action:

- Motion was made by S. Gow, seconded by R. Ruge, to have a letter written opposing the Governor's proposed 20% IHSS service reduction and the proposed elimination of domestic and related services for clients living in the household of another.
- Discussion: None
- Motion passed unanimously.

M. Humphrey commented that there are a number of legislative bills being proposed; a couple are "spot bills" that eventually may affect features of the proposed expansion of managed care. He will keep the committee abreast of upcoming information regarding the bills.

8. Public Comments – None

9. Correspondence; Announcements & Community Meeting Reports

- Gow announced that a town hall meeting will be held on Thursday, April 5th at 50 D Street in Santa Rosa. (Humphrey had sent out the information; the focus will be on the State budget.)
- S. Gow reported on attending fairs and indicated there seems to not be as much concern as in prior years. The Tech Expo was well attended.
- J. Keyston reported she had attended a meeting with Partnership Health Plan with D. Kaljian and M. Humphrey. It will now be called Long-Term Services and Support (LCSS). More information will be forthcoming in the future.
- S. Williams asked if training class(es) could be restored. M. Humphrey responded that on our website there is a button for training. When he receives information on training from community partners, he will post them. He also explained that there are plans for training in the second

year of managed care implementation. S. Williams suggested creating a library of videos. M. Humphrey stated that S. Williams could borrow training videos from the Public Authority's collection.

- R. Ruge suggested organizations like Disability Services & Legal Center (DSLCL) and the ADA Committee (American with Disabilities Act) could provide helpful services/information.
- S. Gow also suggested 2-1-1 could be a helpful resource.

10. Adjournment

J. Keyston adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

Submitted by Joanne DeAlejandro, Secretary

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