

- Jeff reported on AB 2139; a bill which prohibits auto policies from excluding providers from using their vehicles for IHSS tasks unless they pay extra premium for “business” coverage.
- Jeff reported on AB2242; this bill requires that the recipient should receive an explanation for the increase or decrease in their IHSS hours. Jeff explained the background reasons for this bill; providers are not always aware of the time for tasks that are allowed, and recipients are not always clear on the reasons for the changes in hours.
The Committee discussed this at length, and Robbyn stated her recipient’s social worker does a good job of explaining, and a Notice of Action with the adjustment and reason for adjustment is always mailed to them. Other members agreed that any change in hours was already being clearly communicated to them. After general discussion, Committee members felt that this was an unnecessary mandate, since the communication was already being done through the Notice of Action. Robbyn made a motion to compose a letter opposing this legislation. Kenny seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Jeff reviewed the suggestions given by the Legislative Analyst (LA) in response to the proposed budget. The LA agreed to deletion of COLA’s for SSI/SSP, and reducing the SSI/SSP poverty level for couples.
- The LAO’s response to the 18% cut in IHSS services stated it was doubtful that significant savings would result from the cuts, and the ability for recipients to appeal may increase hearing costs, negating any overall savings. Rather than an across the board cut, the LAO recommended taking one of the six allowable hours from domestic services.
- The LAO also suggested looking at a tiered wage system, similar to those in place in LA county and Lake county. These systems pay a higher wage for providers who have experience, or are willing to be “emergency” providers. The Committee discussed these systems and their benefits, and Kenny requested a report from IHSS showing how many recipients are served and how many IHSS hours are used each month by our homemaker program.
- Jeff reported that Karen Bass will become the next Speaker of the Assembly, and Megan Juring will become the new assistant Long Term Care [Manager](#) for Health & Human Services.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Jeff presented the letter that was sent to the Governor and various Assemblymen and Congressmen. The letter voiced the Committee’s opposition to the proposed 18% cuts in domestic hours for IHSS Recipients.

CONVICTION MATRIX

- The conviction matrix used to screen IHSS registry providers was reviewed by the Committee. After discussion, the Committee voted to make the following changes: permanent exclusion for anyone convicted of Child Abuse, and increased restrictions for anyone convicted of perjury. Link2Care staff will update the matrix and post the new requirements online, as well as use the updated matrix at registry orientations.
- The Committee discussed the appeals process for providers. Connie requested the appeals process be placed online. After discussion, the Committee decided that a statement on the website asking providers to call for more information was deemed appropriate. Link2Care staff will make those changes.

GENERAL UPDATE

- Jeff announced that Link2Care has stopped taking registry applications from providers. Link2Care has reached a “saturation point” where we have enough providers on the registry to prevent unmet needs, but have begun to have so many providers that those who have completed training are not being referred out enough to find work. By limiting the number of providers allowed on the registry, Link2Care can balance the needs of IHSS Recipients with the need to find employment for the trained registry providers.

- Jeff announced that Ana Enes has begun working as the new Administrative Assistant for Link2Care. She will be handling the front desk responsibilities, and backing up for Link2Care staff as needed.
- George Sharp announced a rally to be held on Thursday, May 15th in Sacramento. The Capitol Action Day rally is one of the most important to date. There is some expectation that the governor may release his revised budget that day as well. George requested Committee members attend, and consumers are also welcome. Transportation can be arranged for anyone wishing to attend. The rally starts at noon at the Capitol building, and there will be a march scheduled prior to that. Lunch will be provided, and legislative visits will be scheduled in the afternoon. Mary Burch committed to going, and George stated he would bring more specific information as it became available.
- George also requested handwritten letters from the Committee be submitted to him. He will be attending the April 16th sub Committee meeting regarding the cuts proposed for IHSS. He needs the letters to stated how these cuts will affect the IHSS recipients *personally*. The legislature has made it clear that they need a “human face” to be put on this issue. Letters from Committees and advocacy groups are not as powerful as stories with personal impact.
- George also stated letters regarding the impact SSI/SSP cuts are also welcome, since those cuts are now being negotiated again.

Meeting adjourned @ 2:38 PM,
Jennifer DeSanto, Recorder