



**THE IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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**STANISLAUS COUNTY
IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IHSSAC)
MEETING MINUTES
10/9/2015**

Committee Members Present: Connie Muller Marie Cochran
Valerie Mitchell Alma Avina
Joan Blackwell Linda White
Rose Martin

Committee Members Absent: Mohamed Rashid (advanced notice given)
Carmen Morad (advanced notice given)

IHSS & Link2Care Staff Present: Jeff Lambaren

OPENING REMARKS by Linda White

- Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public in attendance.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- Meeting minutes from the September 18, 2015 meeting were accepted.

PUBLIC AUTHORITY UPDATE

- We continue to have labor negotiations with the United Domestic Workers Union (UDW). We have another meeting next week on Thursday.
- We received the decision on provider overtime. The Lower Court ruled in favor of the Plaintiffs. The Court of Appeals reversed the decision and ruled in favor of the Department of Labor. The Supreme Court refused to hear the case so the Court of Appeals ruling is now the law. Per the rules, provider overtime would go into effect Tuesday, October 13th but counties would be granted a 30 day period in order to prepare; that date would be Thursday, November 12th. We are still trying to confirm that all of this information is correct. The State is conducting conference calls to discuss how the counties will need to proceed in order to comply with the law. Providers will be paid overtime for working more than 40 hours per week up to a maximum of 66 hours per week; whether they have one or more recipients. The recipients would be entitled to receive additional wait time for assistance at medical appointments. Travel time would be approved for providers who work for

multiple recipients; driving from one client to another in the same day; capped at a maximum of 7 hours per week. The California State Legislature had previously approved enacting these regulations for the IHSS program so now they will go into effect. We will have a grace period from the Department of Labor. They won't go heavy on enforcement from the November 12th date through the end of the calendar year as long as we are showing good faith attempts to be in compliance. All of the software is already built into the CMIPS system for the new regulations. We had a lot of people sign the new forms last year prior to the process being put on hold due to the lawsuit. Since time has elapsed and, due to limited understanding of the rules and possible minor changes, we will need to repeat that effort again. Recipients will have the option to view the presentation again or just sign the form. Emergencies will occur where recipients need their providers to work more than 40 hours per week due to multiple doctor appointments and/or medical procedures. There would be an exception for that so that the provider gets paid for overtime worked; this would have to be authorized by the social worker. This process is supposed to be done in advance but, for all practical purposes, it will usually occur in arrears. We should get more information shortly as these regulations will need to be implemented quickly. Our next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 4th so much of this will have started and Jeff will provide an update at that time. If anyone wants an update or has any questions prior to our December meeting, please call Jeff. The Committee traditionally does not have a meeting in November due to the Public Authority Conference. As we have done in the past, our December meeting will be our "holiday luncheon meeting." Jeff will order Chinese food per the members' requests.

BUDGET UPDATE

- We still have no permanent solution regarding funding for the IHSS program which means that if they cannot come up with additional revenue the 7% reduction could be back in place effective July 1, 2016. This was a one year measure contingent upon funding. The Special Session of the Legislature can continue even after the regular Legislature is adjourned and all of their business is completed because they are on a different cycle. As previously discussed, alternate revenue sources such as an alcohol and tobacco tax were proposed to fill the void but no agreement could be reached. Additionally, the Managed Care Organization (MCO) Tax got no support.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- SBx15 (formerly SB 128). End of Life Options Act. Approved by the Governor.
- AB 1436 (Burke) – Authorized Representative to be able to sign documents for other individuals with certain exceptions. Still at the Governor's desk.
- SB 3 (Leno) – Minimum Wage Bill. This would increase the minimum wage to \$11/hr. on January 1, 2016 and \$13/hr. on January 1, 2017. This bill is effectively dead.
- SB 196 (Hancock) – Elder Protective Order to dependent adults. Approved by the Governor.
- SB 199 (Hall) – Reading Assistance for the Blind. Still at the Governor's desk.

FURTHER ACTION PLANNING FOR 2015-2016

- Jeff met with the Senior Coalition and the various other partners who are interested in working with our committee to present a training forum. They liked the idea of doing a presentation regarding the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI). The CCI is not doing well financially; the program is not producing the savings it was anticipated to do. Due to that, this program could be terminated in the future. So the focus of this training might change to the topic of how we can coordinate services in our county by partnering with hospitals and skilled nursing facilities to provide services in a more cohesive way. We have a follow-up meeting scheduled on Tuesday, November 10th and we have asked a few more people to participate to give us some good ideas and what would we like to see collectively. Planning to have this training in April or May, 2016.
- Handout from CDSS, "Release of the 2014 In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Satisfaction Survey Report." As was the case in previous years, IHSS consumers tend to report high levels of satisfaction with the program. The consumers indicate that the interaction with their social workers is important as are the number of hours they receive. Their satisfaction with the approved hours is slightly lower than it has been in the past. Slightly more than half of the consumers who appealed their County's decision for a reconsideration of their hours had favorable results. The Statewide average is 85 hours per month per person; our County average is 76 hours per month. It should be noted that while most consumers indicate that they have received more hours as a result of a reassessment, many believe that those increased hours are still not enough to meet their needs. Discussion of trend line chart(s) analysis and consumers' comments section followed.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORT

- None.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Public Comment
- Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from October 9, 2015 meeting
- Public Authority Update
- Budget Update
- Legislative Update
- Further Action Planning for FY 2015-2016
- Committee Members Report
- Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Stephy Tracey, Recorder