



SONOMA COUNTY  
**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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**IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Minutes for April 27, 2009**

- Present:** Stan Gow, Chair  
Mary Bodily, Vice Chair  
Joann Keyston, Secretary  
Gary Fontenot, Ex-officio member  
Nancy Hall  
Marie White  
Sachiko Williams
- Absent:** Mary Raymond  
Richard Ruge  
Herb Willsmore
- Staff:** Diane Kaljian, Division Director – Adult and Aging  
Michael Humphrey, Manager – IHSS Public Authority  
John Chan, Registry Supervisor – IHSS Public Authority  
Lorna Schreck, Secretary – IHSS Public Authority
- Guests:** Patricia Hardwick, IHSS Caregiver  
Sean Haynes, IHSS Caregiver  
Nancy Morales, IHSS Caregiver  
Elsa Stevens, IHSS Caregiver  
Debbie Shafer, Partnership Health Plan  
Linda Melsheimer, Partnership Health Plan  
Mary Enus, Partnership Health Plan

**1. Call to Order/Review Agenda**

S. Gow called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**2. Public Comments –**

- A. Sean Haynes reported that he had asked the Public Authority to research the State Controller's procedure for processing caregiver requests to revoke dues and COPE from their paychecks. Sean was hoping the Advisory Committee could direct him to the correct process for revocation of dues.
- B. Stan referred Sean to the Union, which is responsible for processing the dues and COPE deductions.

- C. M. Humphrey indicated that he would follow up with S. Haynes outside the Advisory Committee meeting.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Members approved the minutes of the March 23, 2009 meeting as presented. M. White requested a copy of the Advisory Committee budget, which the Executive Committee reviewed.

### **4. Managed Medi-Cal**

- A. Debbie Shafer, Linda Melsheimer, and Mary Enus of Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC) introduced the new Managed Medi-Cal Program (MMP), which will go live in October 2009.
- B. PHC is a managed Medi-Cal program with over 15 years of experience assisting neighboring Counties with transitions from Medi-Cal fee-for-service to PHC managed Medi-Cal.
- C. The PHC team distributed a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. Highlights of their PowerPoint presentation included:
  - 1. Emergency Room usage goes down at least 50% within the participating counties within the first year
  - 2. The transition process includes a letter from the State, explaining PHC, the Managed Medi-Cal Plan, and the "go live" date in October 2009; and, a series of informational letters from PHC beginning in June clarifying PHC and asking members to select their primary care physician (PCP).
  - 3. PHC is in the process of contracting with primary care physicians, specialists, pharmacies, and other providers to participate in the plan.
  - 4. PHC established a Medical Transition Committee to manage the transition of Sonoma County's 47,000 Medi-Cal recipients with their scheduled hospitalization, medical procedures, medical supplies, durable medical equipment, etc.
  - 5. Sonoma County will have seven representatives on the PHC Board of Directors. Initially, there will also be a local consumer Advisory Committee that will interface with the PHC Consumer Advisory Committee. PHC also maintains a Physicians Advisory Committee and a Quality Control review program.
  - 6. The culture of PHC is to advocate for the members and the service providers, as well as maintain personal relationships.

## 5. Statistics and Updates

- A. G. Fontenot explained that all IHSS caregivers are provided information about becoming a Registry caregiver
- B. J. Chan explained that new Registry caregivers are screened and ready for referrals.

## 6. Budget and Legislative Update and Advocacy

- A. M. Humphrey reported that the State budget cuts take effect on July 1. This includes the reduction in the State's participation in IHSS caregiver wages from \$11.50 to \$9.50 per hour plus \$.60 per hour for benefits. It also means the elimination of Medi-Cal optional benefits, which include adult dental care, podiatry, speech therapy, chiropractic, acupuncture, audiology, optometry, psychology, and incontinence creams and washes. There are still hearings going on, the election on the budget related ballot measures is May 19, and the formal May revise will be out on June 8. There will be budget rallies happening in Sacramento during the month of May.
- B. N. Hall is working on getting a bus together for the May 27 Disability Capitol Action Day in Sacramento.
- C. M. Humphrey reported on AB 392 – directing a portion of the fines against long term care facilities to the Ombudsman Program (text of legislation included in the Committee packet)
  - 1. Public Comment - Elsa Stevens asked for clarification of AB 392, which J. Keyston provided.
  - 2. **ACTION**
    - a) N. Hall made a motion that the Advisory Committee send a letter in support of AB 392
    - b) J. Keyston seconded the motion
    - c) Discussion included concern about funds going to direct care; Ombudsman looking for substandard conditions in nursing homes; and, the increasing costs in nursing homes.
    - d) The motion passed unanimously

- 7. **Public Comments** - Patricia Hardwick commented about stopping the voluntary COPE contribution, which the Union uses for Political Action. She also shared concern about an IHSS recipient looking

for urgent care and told it would be four to six weeks before IHSS could help her.

M. Humphrey offered to speak to P. Hardwick about these two matters outside of the meeting.

## **8. Executive Committee Report**

S. Gow reported that the Executive Committee reviewed items on today's agenda and the Work Plan Calendar. Members discussed the schedule of meetings for May and June. The May Advisory Committee is June 1 and the June meeting is on June 29.

## **9. Comments about Today's Video: "Beloved Strangers"**

Five members viewed the video and thought it was heart wrenching, very sad, well produced, although no video can honestly convey the 24/7 stress of caring for someone.

## **10. Correspondence; Announcements & Community Meeting Reports**

- A. J. Keyston reported that she went to: Call to Action Conference; Board of Supervisors budget town hall; Elder Protection Unit in the District Attorney's office; and Managed Medi-Cal meeting.
- B. J. Keyston reminded members that under the Brown Act, Public Comment is not open for discussion or response.
- C. M. Bodily announced that Silvercrest is hosting a letter writing campaign on May 5.

## **11. Agenda Topics for the May meeting, which will be held on June 1, 2009**

- A. Budget Related Ballot Initiatives
- B. Review the IHSS Demographics
- C. Regular Reports, including Statistics, Updates, Budget and Legislation

## **12. Adjournment**

S. Gow adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

Submitted by Lorna Schreck, Secretary