



SONOMA COUNTY
IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of June 29, 2009

- Present:** Stan Gow, Chair
Joann Keyston, Secretary
Gary Fontenot, Ex-officio member
Richard Ruge
Marie White
Sachiko Williams
- Absent:** Mary Bodily, Vice Chair
Nancy Hall
Mary Raymond
Herb Willsmore
- Staff:** Diane Kaljian, Division Director – Adult and Aging
Michael Humphrey, Manager – IHSS Public Authority
John Chan, Registry Supervisor – IHSS Public Authority
Susan Alesi, Planner – Adult and Aging
Lorna Schreck, Secretary – IHSS Public Authority

Guests:

1. Call to Order/Review Agenda

S. Gow called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. Public Comments – none

3. Approval of Minutes

Members approved the minutes of the June 3, 2009 meeting as presented.

4. *iWalk Sonoma* - Presentation

- A. Susan Alesi distributed a copy of her PowerPoint presentation and explained the countywide walking program.
- B. *iWALK Sonoma* is part of the County's Health Action, which is a 2020 Vision for Sonoma County. The Health Action is two pronged – the first involves nutrition and the other focuses on exercise. *iWALK Sonoma* is a simple exercise program. Partners include American Heart Association, Area Agency on Aging, Community Activity and Nutrition Coalition, Sonoma County

Department of Health Services, Healthy Eating/Active Living Coalition, Kaiser Permanente, County Regional Parks, Sonoma County Open Space District, St. Joseph's Health System, and Sonoma County Transportation Authority.

- C. *iWALK Sonoma* goals are to engage community partners, increase the number of walking groups, and have county residents use the website to post walks.
- D. Susan invited members to help develop *iWALK Sonoma* by going to the website and identifying their favorite accessible walk with a description of the features that make it accessible and its length.
- E. Discussion highlights:
 - 1) More information on the nutritional part of the program
 - 2) Identify rest stops for walks and install benches
 - 3) Identify passing areas for wheelchairs
 - 4) Website should better describe the walk – accessibility, and location of rest stops and/or benches.

5. Statistics and Updates

- A. M. Humphrey distributed the IHSS Registry Consumer Handbook, produced by the Registry Staff. Staff will distribute the handbook to IHSS Registry consumers.
- B. R. Ruge suggested that staff place a narrative to describe anything out of “norm” on the statistical report to make it easier for members to identify areas of significance.
- C. There was discussion about gathering additional statistical information, specifically identifying why caregivers are no longer working, which could be available when meeting with legislators. Without a study or survey, there is not an easy way to gather specific additional information.
- D. D. Kaljian clarified that IHSS providers will continue to receive a paycheck, even if the State issues IOUs for other service providers.
- E. D. Kaljian reported on IHSS provider wages. On June 9, the Board of Supervisors approved a change in IHSS provider wages to \$10.20 per hour, effective August 1. The wage reduction in Sonoma County is due to the State's reduction,

and not because the County reduced their share of wages. Staff prepared a fact sheet, which is available at the front counter for distribution. A statement will be added to the IHSS provider paychecks advising providers of the wage reduction. Both Supervisor Zane and Supervisor Kelley spoke about their regret at having to take this action due to the State's reduction in wages. They commented on the importance of IHSS providers and the work they do for vulnerable IHSS clients.

- F. D. Kaljian reported on a court injunction last Thursday to stop the July 1st IHSS wage reduction. Until the court decision is final, Sonoma County will proceed, and pay IHSS providers \$10.20 per hour effective August 1.

6. Budget and Legislative Update and Advocacy

- A. M. Humphrey reported on the status of the State's proposed budget. At this time the following proposals are still on the table:
- 1) A 30% cut to MSSP
 - 2) No changes to Linkages
 - 3) A 30% cut to Redwood Caregiver Resource Center
 - 4) A 30% cut to Senior Brown Bag Program
 - 5) A 30% cut to Adult Day Care Programs
 - 6) IHSS share of cost (SOC) buyout – Individuals who receive the IHSS SOC buyout assistance would have to pay 50% of the buyout amount.
 - 7) Functional Index (FI) score – Individuals with an FI score below two would be eliminated from the IHSS program, unless they have more than 120 hours per month.
 - 8) IHSS provider wages will not be reduced to minimum wage.
 - 9) The Budget Conference Committee added a 20% reduction to the Public Authority administration.
- B. D. Kaljian reported on the County budget and changes to the Adult and Aging Division:
- 1) Veteran's Services – lost one clerical position
 - 2) Public Guardian – lost one position

3) She noted that other HSD divisions also lost positions.

7. Review IHSS Public Authority Goals and Objectives

A. FY 2008 – 2009 Goals and Objectives

M. Humphrey distributed a copy of the 2008-2009 Goals and Objectives. He reviewed the accomplishments.

B. FY 2009 – 2010 Goals and Objectives

M. Humphrey distributed and reviewed the proposed 2009-2010 Goals and Objectives. Based on discussion, the following items were changed:

- 1) Item 3A - "320 caregivers will participate in IHSS caregiver trainings."
- 2) Item 3B - "4 trainings will be offered in Spanish with a total of 80 caregivers in attendance."

8. Public Comments – None

9. Executive Committee Report

S. Gow reported that the Executive Committee discussed the budget, reviewed items on today's agenda and the Work Plan Calendar.

10. Comments about Today's Video: "My Body Is Not Who I Am"

Five members viewed the video and thought it was good, but would have liked to see more graphics. A few members thought the video more effective during the second viewing.

11. Correspondence; Announcements & Community Meeting Reports

A. J. Keyston reported:

- 1) The Disability Services and Legal Center (DSLCL) fundraiser was held on June 26 and was very well attended.
- 2) Managed Medi-Cal is on track for October 1st – and they are starting the recruitment process for 7 board members
- 3) An Elder Abuse Summit is set for tomorrow in Oakmont with 200 people registered to attend.

- B. J. Keyston will send a card on behalf of the Advisory Committee to Nancy Hall, who is recovering from injuries sustained in a automobile accident.
- C. Senior Day at the County Fair is Tuesday, August 4. R. Ruge, J. Keyston, and S. Gow volunteered to assist at the Public Authority booth.

12. Agenda Topics for the September meeting, which will be held on Monday, September 28, 2009

- A. Advisory Committee work plan – brainstorming
 - 1) Reminder of items to include:
 - a) Impact of the program changes that begin taking place in October
 - b) Nutrition and meal preparation training for caregivers
 - c) Public hearing for consumers
- B. Regular Reports, including Statistics, Updates, Budget and Legislation

13. Adjournment

- S. Gow adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Submitted by Lorna Schreck, Secretary