



SONOMA COUNTY
IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

3725 Westwind Blvd., P.O. Box 1949, Santa Rosa, California 95402
Phone: 707•565•5700 Fax: 707•565•5720



**IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of October 26, 2009**

Present: Stan Gow, Chair
Mary Bodily, Vice Chair
Joann Keyston, Secretary
Gary Fontenot, Ex-officio member
Nancy Hall
Richard Ruge
Marie White
Sachiko Williams
Herb Willsmore

Absent: Mary Raymond

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

Guests:

1. Call to Order/Review Agenda

S. Gow called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Public Comments – none

3. Approval of Minutes

ACTION

N. Hall made a motion that members accept the minutes as presented

J. Keyston seconded the motion

Discussion

M. White took exception to item 4 B: *G. Fontenot's report that the Union ratified the MOU*. Although the minutes accurately reflected what G. Fontenot reported during the meeting, M. White was concerned about the actual accuracy of the Union's ratification process.

Vote: The motion to approve the minutes was passed with an 8-1 vote, with Marie White in opposition.

4. Statistics and Updates

- A. D. Kaljian clarified that the State requirement for fingerprinting IHSS recipients does not happen until a later date.
- B. D. Kaljian reported that on September 29 the Board of Supervisors approved the MOU between the Public Authority and SEIU-UHW-West, which is the recognized IHSS provider Union in Sonoma County.
- C. Update – IHSS Program Changes
 - 1) D. Kaljian reported the State's change relative to recipients with a Functional Index below 2 would affect over 500 recipients in Sonoma County. The Board of Supervisors approved participation in a lawsuit against the State. Currently there is an injunction, although the State programmed CMIPS (payroll database) with the changes to take affect on 11/1/09. Sonoma County payroll staff is manually making the appropriate changes to CMIPS to comply with the injunction.
 - 2) D. Kaljian outlined the change in Provider Enrollment requirements:
 - a) All IHSS providers must complete the new Provider Enrollment form
 - b) All IHSS providers are required to be oriented to the IHSS program. The State provided an Orientation video that all Counties are required to present.
 - c) All IHSS providers must complete Live Scan fingerprinting for a Department of Justice background check
 - 3) D. Kaljian explained that the Counties are still waiting for the State to provide forms and directions before the new Provider Enrollment process begins on November 1.
 - a) Current IHSS providers will not have to complete the new enrollment process until July 2010.
 - b) One of the new requirements will not allow retroactive payment to IHSS providers.
 - c) The IHSS Public Authority Registry will not be able to operate until the Registry providers are approved under the new enrollment process.
 - d) For the next two months, the Public Authority will process new IHSS providers, current providers who have a new relationship,

and registry providers. All other current IHSS providers will begin the new enrollment process in January 2010.

- e) D. Kaljian reported that there is new funding for the IHSS Program Integrity (fraud prevention). Sonoma County's proposal is based on the Social Worker model, which allows social workers to identify situations and provide resources.

D. Update – IHSS Public Authority Changes

- 1) M. Humphrey reported that the Dublin Insurance Services is now handling provider benefits administration. He explained that the Public Authority lost the Benefits Manager position. D. Kaljian acknowledged Lois Havness, and expressed her appreciation for Lois, who created and managed the benefits program for the Public Authority since 2002.
- 2) M. Humphrey reported funding cuts from the State caused the Public Authority to suspend training classes, eliminate quarterly newsletters, and stop accepting Registry applications until sometime after the first of the year.
- 3) D. Kaljian reported that for the rest of the fiscal year, there would be no more reductions to staff. She stated that the IHSS program and the Public Authority could anticipate very difficult funding options for 2010-11.

5. Budget and Legislative Update and Advocacy

- A. M. Humphrey distributed a legislative update and reviewed several of the items.

6. Work Session – Public Hearing on IHSS Changes

- A. M. Humphrey provided a recap of last months suggestions:
 - 1) Use a larger location
 - 2) Plan for the later part of February
 - 3) Panel to provide a clear overview of the program changes
 - 4) Public Comments following the panel
- B. Discussion included the following:
 - 1) Invite both providers and recipients to the same hearing
 - 2) Provide handouts on the changes
 - 3) Determine what to do with the information garnered at the hearing

- a) Use to educate legislators
- 4) Have County Supervisors involved
- 5) Advertise the hearing in the newspapers – public education
- 6) May be helpful to have Legislative Aides attend the hearing in order to educate clients and caregivers on how to contact their legislators
- 7) Have an opportunity for people to write down their questions and/or comments

7. Finalize Advisory Committee Work Plan

- A. M. Humphrey distributed a draft of the Annual Work Plan and the Work Plan Calendar for fiscal year 2009-2010.
- B. Discussion
 - 1) R. Ruge suggested having a training on Community Organizing
 - 2) M. White would like the Committee to make recommendations instead of just reacting to changes decreed by the State. She would like the Committee to express the emotional effects experienced by IHSS recipients and caregivers since the changes began.
 - 3) J. Keyston suggested that the meetings with local legislators be more directive and less “meet and greet.”
 - 4) N. Hall suggested that the Committee determine what they should say to the legislators.
 - 5) M. Humphrey reminded members that the Committee represents the County and the Board of Supervisors. The focus needs to be on informing about possible impacts, but not recommending specific actions.
 - 6) H. Willsmore suggested that the approach reflect appreciation for what legislators have done (maintaining the current IHSS provider wage), and keep an open tone.
 - 7) J. Keyston commented that the committee could enlighten legislators by using a focused approach.
 - 8) R. Ruge suggested that the panel share talking points with the public and invite the public to take action.
 - 9) M. White shared concern about not holding on to the program achievements to date.

8. Public Comments – None

9. Executive Committee Report

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

10. Nominating Committee

- A. The workgroup consisted of G. Fontenot, R. Ruge, and N. Hall. G. Fontenot announced the following slate of officers for nomination: Chair – J. Keyston, Vice Chair – S. Gow, and Secretary – N. Hall.
- B. The nominations were opened to the floor, and hearing none, closed. The election will be held during the January meeting. New officers will begin their duties in February.

11. Comments about Today's Video: "Hands-On Skills" part 2, including the Meal Prep information

Three members viewed the video and did not think it congruent with the first part of the video, viewed last month. The content was good, basic information.

12. Correspondence; Announcements & Community Meeting Reports

- A. The Tech Expo on October 8 was well attended. J. Keyston and S. Gow helped staff the Public Authority booth.
- B. There are a series of Elder Abuse Forums throughout the County.

13. Agenda Topics for the next meeting, which will be held on Monday, January 25, 2010

- A. Election of Officers
- B. Regular Reports, including Statistics, Updates, Budget and Legislation
- C. Finalize the Public Hearing
- D. Review the Governor's 2010-11 Budget Proposal
- E. Work Session – Legislative & Public Policy Platform
- F. Review implementation of new provider enrollment requirements

14. Adjournment

S. Gow adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Submitted by Lorna Schreck, Secretary