



County of Santa Cruz

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY
18 W. Beach Street, Watsonville, CA; P.O. Box 1300, Santa Cruz, CA 95061
(831) 454-4036 FAX: (831) 763-8906

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

IHSS Advisory Commission

Date: Friday, September 22, 2023
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM
Location: 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 206. Santa Cruz, CA

The use of facemasks is recommended for all attendees of the IHSS Advisory Commission meeting

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - i. August 25, 2023 Meeting.....Page 3.
 - b. Commission Vacancies
 - i. One (1) – Consumer Representative
 - ii. One (1) – Representative of Advocate Organization
5. Oral Communications and Announcements: *Anyone wishing to address the commission on any item within the jurisdiction of the Commission and not listed on the agenda may do so at this time. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes in duration.*
6. Presentation: Representational Government - Rita Sanchez
7. Regular Agenda – Action Items
 - a. Consumer/Provider Survey
 - b. Summit Planning
8. Regular Agenda – Information Items
 - a. Updates/Housekeeping
 - i. Reminders from the Chair
 1. Biennial Report Due 01/31/2024.....Page 7.
 - ii. Topics & Speakers
 - b. IHSS Providers
 - c. IHSS Program and Public Authority Updates

The County of Santa Cruz complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This meeting room is accessible for people with disabilities. If you wish to discuss reasonable modifications or accommodations, please call 454-4036 prior to the meeting. For the comfort of those with allergies and chemical sensitivities, please do not wear perfume or scented products to the meeting.

d. Subcommittee Reports

- i. Legislative/Advocacy (Molesky)
- ii. Website (Taylor/Andersen)
- iii. CICA Conference Calls (Campbell)
- iv. Technology (vacant)

9. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: October 27, 2023, 1:00PM – 3:00PM @ 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 206. Santa Cruz, CA



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IHSS Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, August 25, 2023
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM
Location: 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 206. Santa Cruz, CA
Present: Michael Molesky (Consumer, Chair), Lois Sones (Seniors Commission, Vice-Chair), Becky Taylor (Commission on Disabilities), Foster Andersen (Consumer), Jozette Irgang (Consumer), Linda Campbell (Consumer), Christine Kiebert-Boss (Consumer), Patricia Fohrman (Provider), Maria Arreola (Provider)
Excused: None
Absent: None
Guests: Grecia Quintero (Presenter, SARC); Ivett Vazquez (Presenter, SARC)
Staff: Juan Magaña (Program Manager, IHSS and Public Authority)

Agenda

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting was called to order at 1:04PM; a quorum was present.
2. Roll Call
 - a. Welcome new Commissioner – Christine Kiebert-Boss
3. Agenda Review
 - a. Agenda reviewed, no changes were made.
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - i. June 23, 2023 Meeting
 - b. Commission Vacancies
 - i. One (1) – Consumer Representative
 - ii. One (1) – Representative of Advocate Organization
 - c. Motion to approve consent agenda called by:
 - i. First/Second: Sones/Arreola
 - ii. Ayes: Molesky, Sones, Taylor, Andersen, Irgang, Campbell, Kiebert-Boss, Fohrman, Arreola
 - iii. Noes: None
 - iv. Abstain: None
 - v. Absent: None
 - d. Motion carried unanimously.

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5. Oral Communications and Announcements:

- a. Anderson reported that there will be a dedication for a new beach chair that can roll into the water at Simpkins Swim Center on September 8, 2023.
- b. Sones reported that the work on the new Elderday building in Watsonville is almost complete and she anticipates Elderday will move to its new location at the end of September 2023.

6. Guest Speaker: San Andreas Regional Center

- a. Grecia Quintero and Ivett Vazquez presented information on the services provided the San Andreas Regional Center. Information presented to the commission included:
 - i. The Early Start Program;
 - ii. Transition from Early Start to Preschool;
 - iii. General intake and who can apply for services;
 - iv. The referral process;
 - v. Services offered by SARC for the various age groups SARC serves; and
 - vi. Contact information for SARC.
- b. A copy of the slide deck that was presented was made available for commission members to reference.

7. Regular Agenda – Action Items

- a. By-Laws/County Code Review Changes
 - i. Molesky informed the commission that he wanted to explore updating the commission's by-laws to reference the following:
 - 1. A commissioner's ability to take a leave of absence from their appointment in order their absence to not impact the commission's ability to maintain a quorum.
 - a. Staff informed that an inquiry had been sent out to county counsel to see if a leave of absence is allowed.
 - 2. Updating section 8 – Membership, subsection a.c.iii of the bylaws to provide more specificity to who can be appointed as an at-large representative.
 - ii. The commission discussed these changes and agreed to bring this item back to the commission at a future meeting.
 - iii. No action was taken on this item at this time.

8. Regular Agenda – Information Items

- a. Updates/Housekeeping
 - i. Reminders from the Chair
 - 1. Molesky reminded commissioners of their responsibility to reach out to their local elected representatives to discuss the work being done by the commission.
 - ii. Topics & Speakers

1. Molesky suggested that a standing Board of Supervisor member be invited to the commission.
- b. Discussion: Caregiver Shortages
- i. Molesky opened the floor for the commission to provide input on what to do to address the caregiver shortage.
 1. Suggestions from the group included doing a one-stop enrollment, resuming the caregiver café recruitment event that occurred pre-COVID, and exploring a dual mode for IHSS services.
- c. IHSS Providers
- i. No report from IHSS providers was made.
- d. IHSS Program and Public Authority Updates
- i. Staff provided the following updates:
 1. The county received Age Friendly designation from AARP in May 2023– This is a nice anchor to and compliments our Master Plan for Aging (MPA) work.
 2. The steering committee continues to meet to help inform the comprehensive countywide assessment tool and process for MPA.
 3. We contracted with Senior Network Services for Medi-Cal outreach program for APS and IHSS clients through June 30, 2024. This program provides in-home assistance to establish and maintain benefits.
 4. We contracted with Senior Network Services for the Access to Technology program through December 31, 2023. This program provides in home assistance and training for IHSS and APS clients for up to 8 weeks along with a tablet and connectivity.
 5. The Public Authority has 217 active providers on its provider registry; of these, only 82 are available for more work – that is only 38% of our registry pool.
 6. The Public Authority is planning a provider recognition event for the month of November. The goal is to have a proclamation from the Board of Supervisors acknowledging November as Caregiver month. In addition, the Public Authority was able to use one-time funds to purchase a limited number of gifts to distribute to IHSS providers during that month. We are still in the planning phases for this and will seek input from the commission soon.
- e. Subcommittee Reports
- i. Legislative/Advocacy (Molesky)
 1. Molesky reported that he met with supervisor Friend (district 2) and informed him of what is happening with the IHSS program.
 - ii. Website (Taylor/Andersen)
 1. No report out.
 - iii. CICA Conference Calls (Campbell)

1. Campbell reported that the last CICA conference call was about the regional centers, which was just covered by the earlier presentation. She reported that statewide, there are 317k individuals are receiving services from regional centers throughout California.

iv. Technology (vacant)

9. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 2:59PM

Next Regular Meeting: September 22 2023, 1:00PM – 3:00PM @ 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 206. Santa Cruz, CA

DRAFT



County of Santa Cruz

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION

18 W. Beach Street, Watsonville, CA 95076
P.O. Box 1300, Santa Cruz, CA 95061
(831) 454-4036 FAX: (831) 763-8906
MICHAEL MOLESKY, CHAIR

DATE: January 31, 2022
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Juan C. Magaña, Staff
RE: In-Home Supportive Services Advisory Commission 2020-2021 Report

Attached is the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Advisory Commission biennial report. The commission would like to thank the Board for your ongoing support and the opportunity to provide input in the operations of the IHSS program. Currently, there are three vacancies that the commission is seeking to fill. The Commission appreciates the Board's advocacy in filling these vacancies. Lastly, the Commission would like to recognize the Human Services Department and its staff for its dedication to the Commission throughout the years.

In the next two years, the Commission plans on advocating for greater access to health care for both recipients and care providers of IHSS and advocate for livable wages for IHSS care providers. In addition, the commission plans on working collaboratively with Public Authority staff to increase the number of registry care providers that are available to work in the most needed areas of Santa Cruz County. Finally, the Commission will continue to monitor new developments with Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the potential impact to both recipients and care providers of IHSS.

IHSS Advisory Commission

Report - 2022

2020 - 2021

Role of the Commission

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Advisory Commission is a state-mandated advisory board established under AB 1682. The powers and duties of the IHSS Advisory Commission, as defined by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors' Ordinance #4655, Chapter 2.124.070 of the Santa Cruz County Code, are to:

1. Serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors, as the governing board of the IHSS Public Authority, and any administrative body in the County related to the delivery and administration of the IHSS;
2. Review policies related to the delivery of IHSS and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding any proposed changes;
3. Review pending State and Federal legislation that may impact the IHSS program, consumers, and/or providers and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding any proposed changes;
4. Stay informed and educated on IHSS and Public Authority issues;
5. Provide a forum for consumers and providers of personal assistance services, advocates and other interested parties to participate in IHSS policy and program development.

Meetings dates, time and location

The IHSS Advisory Commission meets on the fourth Friday of every month from 1:00 – 3:00. The commission does not meet in the months of July and December. Due to the onset of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) health pandemic, the commission met virtually via teleconference for the majority of its meetings in 2020 and 2021.

Commission Structure

The Commission comprises no more than 11 members, of which a majority must be current or former users of personal assistance services paid for through public or private funds. The remaining slots include: two current for former providers of In-Home Supportive Services; and three at-large members from any of the following: a representative of an organization that advocates for people with disabilities or seniors and/or a representative who also concurrently holds a seat on either the Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission or the Commission on Disabilities.

Currently, there are three vacancies that the commission is seeking to fill. These vacancies are comprised of two former or current users of personal assistance services and one representative of an organization that advocates for people with disabilities or seniors.

Commission staff

The IHSS Advisory Commission is staffed by the Public Authority, under the auspices of the Human Services Department. Staff from the IHSS Program attend each meeting.

Attendance 2020 and 2021

The attendance charts for 2020 and 2021 are attached.

Goals and Accomplishments

During 2020 and 2021, the IHSS Advisory Commission:

1. Hosted the following guest speakers: Sam Trevino from the Health Project Center and Janie Whiteford from the California IHSS Consumer Alliance.
2. Welcomed one new commission member: Patricia Fohrman (IHSS care provider).
3. Renewed membership with the California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA).
4. Kept informed of state budget issues by California Association of Public Authorities advocates.
5. Received updates of the State Olmstead Advisory Board as relevant.
6. Assisted in the planning of the Caring Community Summit in March of 2020.
7. Collaborated with the Health Project Center to develop training curriculum for IHSS care providers.
8. Recommended changes to County Code to better define the membership criteria for at-large representatives and aligned its bylaws to the recommended County Code language.
9. Monitored the impact of the COVID-19 health pandemic on IHSS recipients and care providers.
10. Transitioned from in-person meetings to remote meetings because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
11. Kept informed on the Master Plan on Aging (MPA).
12. Collaborated with the IHSS program to provide facemasks to IHSS care providers.
13. Advocated for COVID-19 vaccines for care providers.
14. Successfully implemented disaster protocols due to local fire and flood disasters.
15. Continued providing ongoing input to IHSS Public Authority staff for posting relevant and educational information on the IHSS Public Authority website.
16. Shared information with Seniors Commission and Commissions on Disabilities.
17. Subcommittees monitored activity in the areas of interest to IHSS recipients and providers.
18. Performed ongoing work to fill the remaining vacancies in the commission.

Future Goals

The goals of the IHSS Advisory Commission include the following:

1. Participate in Public Authority Registry recruitment efforts. Particularly providers willing to work in Santa Cruz and San Lorenzo Valley and/or willing and able to provide care for high needs clients.
2. Monitor the success of the provider enrollment process.
3. Promote ongoing education of IHSS for consumers, care providers and the community.
4. Work collaboratively with the Health Project Center to develop training curriculum for IHSS providers.
5. Participate in the development of enhanced supports for IHSS recipients and care providers.
6. Continue to monitor payroll activity to assure providers are being paid timely.
7. Monitor the ongoing use of the Electronic Visit Verification requirement for IHSS and its impact on consumers and providers.
8. Increase collaboration with the local labor organization.
9. Network with community-based organizations and other commissions to solve issues that affect IHSS and related services.
10. Hold IHSS Advisory Commission meetings in south and mid-county locations.
11. Work collaboratively with partner agencies and commissions on disaster planning and emergency preparedness.
12. Monitor the impact of the CZU fire and its aftermath on consumers and providers and make recommendations as necessary.
13. Identify community resources that IHSS consumers and providers can access in emergency situations.
14. When allowable under public health recommendations, the commission will seek to resume the Caring Community Summit.
15. Resume new commissioner orientation and conduct annual refreshers for existing commissioners.
16. Advocate for fall prevention and supports in the home of all recipients of IHSS.

Recommendations

Recommendations from the IHSS Advisory Commission include the following:

1. Advocate for mixed housing with caregivers to support integrated caregiver and community planning.
2. Advocate for a living wage for caregivers so they can remain in our community.
3. Advocate for the county to develop a comprehensive emergency preparedness program.

IHSS Advisory Commission
2020-2021 Report

4. Explore the feasibility of an agency-based (Contract Mode) IHSS system in Santa Cruz County.
5. Advocate for the needs of IHSS recipients and caregivers to be included in plans when developing the MPA.
6. Connect with Central California Alliance for Health to help coordinate services under the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) program.

2020 Attendance

IHSS Advisory Commission 2020 Attendance Roster											
Name	Affiliation	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Lois Sones	Seniors Commission	X	X	C	C	X	X	C	X	C	X
Vacant	Commission on Disabilities	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Vacant	Rep. of Commission or Staff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Foster Andersen	Consumer	X	X	C	C	X	X	C	X	C	X
Michael Molesky	Consumer	X	X	C	C	X	X	C	X	C	X
Linda Campbell	Consumer	X	E	C	C	X	X	C	X	C	X
Becky Taylor	Consumer	X	X	C	C	X	X	C	E	C	X
Jozett Irgang	Consumer	X	X	C	C	X	A	C	X	C	X
Vacant	Consumer	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maria Arreola	Provider	E	X	C	C	X	A	C	X	C	X
Patricia Howes	Provider	E	R								
Patricia Fohrman	Provider	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	C	X	C	E

Key:

- X = Present
- E = Excused
- A = Absent
- R = Resigned
- n/a = Not yet appointed
- C = meeting cancelled

2021 Attendance

IHSS Advisory Commission 2021 Attendance Roster											
Name	Affiliation	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Lois Sones	Seniors Commission	X	E	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X
Becky Taylor	Commission on Disabilities	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vacant	Rep. of Commission or Staff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Foster Andersen	Consumer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	X	X
Michael Molesky	Consumer	X	E	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X
Linda Campbell	Consumer	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Becky Taylor	Consumer	X	X	X	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Jozett Irgang	Consumer	X	X	X	E	A	E	X	A	X	X
Vacant	Consumer				n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Vacant	Consumer	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maria Arreola	Provider	E	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	E
Patricia Fohrman	Provider	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	X	X

Key:

- X = Present
- E = Excused
- A = Absent
- R = Resigned
- n/a = Not yet appointed
- C = meeting cancelled