



County of Santa Cruz

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

IHSS Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, February 27, 2026
Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Location: 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 207. Santa Cruz, CA
Virtual (Public only): Recording of Meeting available on Commission Website
Present: Lois Sones (Seniors Commission), Stephanie Auld (Consumer), Foster Andersen (Consumer)
Excused: Maria Arreola (Provider),
Staff: Juan Magaña (Staff), Julie Gabriel (Staff), Bertha Z. Paredez (Staff)
Guest Craig Ruble, Kendra Webster, Karina Aragon, Alicia Morales (ALTC Director), Corinne Jones (Senior Network Services)

Agenda

1. Call to Order 1:02pm
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Public Comment:
 - a. No public comment.
5. Consent Agenda
 - a. Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to approve January 23, 2026 meeting minutes
 - First/Second: Auld/Andersen.
 - Ayes: Andersen, Sones, Auld.
 - Noes: None.
 - Abstain: None.Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Commission Vacancies
 - Four (4) – Consumer Representatives (A)
 - One (1) – Provider (B)
 - Two (2) – Representative of Advocate Organization or Representative of Commission on Disabilities (C)
6. Guest Speaker: Corinne Jones, Director of Programs Senior Network Services

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.

- Jones provided overview of programs offered by Senior Network Services.

7. Regular Agenda – Action Items

a. Letter of Opposition- IHSS Trailer Bills in the 2026–27 Jan Budget

- Motion to approve sending a letter of opposition to shifting the cost of in-home support from the state to the communities was called by:
 - First/Second: Auld/Andersen.
 - Ayes: Auld, Andersen, Sones.
 - Noes: None
 - Abstain: None
- Motion passes unanimously.

b. Public Participation – IHSS Advisory Commission Draft Letter for Public Participation Zoom via Zoom

- Motion to update language and approve sending letter to Division Director for consideration was called by:
 - First/Second: Andersen, Auld
 - Ayes: Auld, Andersen, Sones
 - Noes: None
 - Abstain: None
- Motion passed unanimously.

c. Recruitment Strategies: IHSS Advisory Commission Vacancies

- Auld will attend Commission on Disabilities to encourage participation.
- Commission would like to have local labor organization participation at meetings.
- Focus on the recruitment of parents of minor recipients.
- Motion to compose an email to clients using verbiage from flyer notifying of ability for commission members to attend the meeting virtually with ADA accommodations. Staff to send to San Andreas Regional Center (SARC), Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCIL), and Special Parent Information Network (SPIN).
 - First/Second: Auld/Andersen.
 - Ayes: Auld, Andersen, Sones.
 - Noes: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- Motion passed unanimously.

8. Regular Agenda – Information Items

a. Information Sharing

i. Announcements

- Day in the Park, May 9, 2026, resource fair, music, activities, adaptive experiences, 12pm-3pm.

- Highland Park Adaptive Easter Egg Hunt; beeper eggs for blind/visually impaired. Mar 29, 2026, 10am-2pm.
 - Topics & Speaker
 - OnLok PACE Program on Mar 27, 2026.
 - Commission would like to extend an invitation to CCIL for a presentation.
- b. Commission Budget
 - CICA Membership consideration in light of budget concerns.
- c. Registry Data
 - Included in meeting packet.
 - Consumer Auld asked where to find information on claimed hours versus paid hours.
 1. Aragon informed that information requested is available on CDSS website.
- d. IHSS Provider Training Courses
 - A list of the training courses was included with meeting packet.
- e. IHSS Consumers
 - No report out.
- f. IHSS Providers
 - No provider present.
- g. IHSS Program and Public Authority Updates
 - Zamora-Paredes provided information on behalf of IHSS Program Manager, Jessica Cirksena:
 - a. CDSS Compliance: IHSS is fully compliant with intake timeliness, reassessments, and Community First Choice Option (CFCO) reassessments.
 - b. CFCO Fiscal Penalties: Penalties totaling \$8,710.43 incurred this fiscal year, well below other counties.
 - c. Budget Monitoring: Actively evaluating State budget proposals and coordinating with California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) and California Association of Public Authorities (CAPA) to reduce program impacts.
 - d. Staffing Challenges: Ongoing effects of clerical staff shortages on IHSS operations.
 - e. CalAIM MOUs: Working with Central California Alliance for Health (CCAH) and Kaiser to establish MOUs.
 - f. Training Platform: Launched new on-demand training platform in January via Health Projects Center; 61

providers completed training in the first month. Gift card stipends offered to the first 30 participants monthly.

- Alicia Morales Division Director provided the following updates:
 - a. County Executive Office reported countywide impacts of H.R. 1, including a hiring/travel freeze.
 - b. County is \$5M over budget this fiscal year; projected \$22M over next year. Cost-reduction strategies are being reviewed pending the May Revise.
 - c. Adult Protective Services is updating three Public Service Announcements re: Elder Abuse (English and Spanish), for their website and the public.
 - d. Public Guardian shared updates on SB 43 and changes to LPS conservatorship definitions.
 - e. Master Plan for Aging work continues, focusing on a broad, lifespan approach to community needs.

b. Report Outs

a. Legislative – Volunteer needed.

- No report out.

b. CICA Conference Calls

- No report out.

c. Seniors Commission

- Sones reported out that without changes the IHSS program will be bankrupt.

c. Future Agenda Items

a. Commission Re-Set: Goals and Objectives

b. Review goals in light of current budget

c. Trainings for commissioners

d. Correspondence

a. No correspondence submitted.

e. Adjournment 3:01pm

Next Regular Meeting: March 27, 2026, 1:00PM – 3:00PM @ 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 207, Santa Cruz.

Respectfully submitted by: Bertha Zamora-Paredes, Staff to IHSS Advisory Commission