



County of Santa Cruz

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY
500 Westridge Drive, Watsonville, CA; P.O. Box 1300, Santa Cruz, CA
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IHSS Advisory Commission Meeting

Minutes

DATE: Friday, March 27, 2026

TIME: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

LOCATION: 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 207. Santa Cruz,
CA Virtual (Public only):

PRESENT: Lois Sones (Seniors Commission), Stephanie Auld (Consumer),
Foster

Andersen (Consumer), Maria Arreola (Provider)

STAFF: Jessica Cirkseña (Staff), Julie Gabriel (Staff), Bertha Z. Paredez (Staff)

GUEST: Craig Ruble, Nicole Torres, Katherine Kelly, On LOK Director of
Government Affairs and Community Relations; Tammie Pitkin, On
LOK Senior Director Health Plan Services.

Agenda

1) Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm.

2) Roll Call

3) Agenda Review

a. staff struck item 9g. from agenda; duplicate, see 7a.

b. staff struck item 8a. from agenda; duplicate see 4a.

4) Public Comment:

a. Public comment

5) Motion to Approve February 27, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as written.

Motion/Second: Auld/Andersen

Ayes: Sones, Arreola, Auld, Andersen

Noes: None

Motion passed unanimously

6) Guest Speakers: On Lok PACE

a. The commission learned about the PACE program and what On Lok is doing to support seniors.

7) IHSS General Operations Report

a. IHSS Program and Public Authority Updates

The IHSS Program Manager Jessica Cirkseña reported that there is little new information at this time, as we remain in a wait-and-see position regarding the state budget. During Wednesday's State Assembly Health and Human Services hearing, a proposal was discussed that would set an annual average of IHSS hours per recipient, with any hours beyond that amount becoming a county cost. Counties are already experiencing significant fiscal pressures. The Assembly committee indicated they would not support the proposal without further discussion, noting, "We will not balance this budget on the backs of our seniors." This response was viewed as encouraging. The county budget is due to the Board at the end of April, with presentations and hearings scheduled for May.

Commissioner requested a future presentation on IHSS metrics, including HTGS, application consistency, provider enrollment timelines, and the percentage of consumers matched with caregivers. The IHSS Program Manager explained that current QA processes do not track all these metrics, though the state conducts an annual case review and the county QA specialist reviews cases and reports for accuracy. Monthly reporting is not feasible, but an annual summary may be possible. Commissioners expressed interest in inviting the QI unit to present IHSS QA metrics.

8) Regular Agenda – Action Items

Recruitment Strategies: IHSS Advisory Commission Vacancies

- Two new commissioner applications were received, along with one inquiry.
- Motion to update commission flyer with online message and send mass email called by:

Motion/Second: Andersen/Auld
Ayes: Sones, Arreola, Auld, Andersen
Noes: None
Motion passed unanimously

9) Regular Agenda – Information Items

a. Information Sharing

i. Announcements

1. Egg Hunt at Ben Lomond, March 28. Outreach recruitment flyer.
2. Day in the Park- May 9 at San Lorenzo Park. 34th year of Adventures Outdoors and will include food, music, activities, and outreach.
3. April 2, Watsonville Police Department Autism Awareness Meeting.

ii. Topics & Speakers

1. QI for future guest speaker
2. April 2026 Guest, no response yet.
3. Commissioner Auld requested a copy of the biannual report from January 2026

b. Commission Budget

c. Registry Data

d. IHSS Consumers- waiting for new members

e. IHSS Providers

- Commissioner Arreola requested Medi-Cal presentation to explain changes.

10) Report Outs

a. Legislative – Volunteer needed

No report out

b. CICA Conference Calls

No report out

c. Seniors Commission

No meeting

11) Future Agenda Items

a. Setting Goals and Objectives

12) Correspondence

No report out

13) Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:52 PM

Meeting Minutes by: Bertha Z. Paredez, Staff to IHSS Advisory Commission