



County of Santa Cruz

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY

500 Westridge Drive, Watsonville, CA; P.O. Box 1300, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

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IHSS Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

DATE: Friday, June 26, 2026
TIME: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
LOCATION 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 207. Santa Cruz, CA
PRESENT: Lois Sones (Chair, Seniors Commission), Foster Anderson (Consumer),
Stephanie Auld (Consumer), Maria Arreola (Provider), David Molina
(Disabilities, Commission), Brenda Gutierrez-Baeza (Consumer)
EXCUSED: None
ABSENT: Sacha Defoy (Consumer)
STAFF: Bertha Z. Paredez (Staff), Julie Gabriel (Staff)
GUEST: Craig Ruble, Karina Aragon, County of Santa Cruz HSD Program Manager

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

- Meeting was called to order at 1:02pm. A quorum was present.
- Commissioners Molina and Gutierrez Baeza are participating remotely under SB 707 just-cause provisions. Commissioner Defoy will participate remotely pursuant to SB 707 permanent remote accommodation provisions.

2. Public Comment:

- One member of the Public commented regarding interest in serving in the Advisory Commission.

3. Approval of June 26, 2026, Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve June 26, 2026, Meeting Minutes
- First/Second: Auld/Andersen
- Motion approved unanimously

4. Consent Agenda

- Current Commission Vacancies
 - i. Two (2) – Consumer Representatives (A)
 - ii. One (1) – Provider (B)
 - iii. One (1) – Representative of Advocate Organization

5. IHSS General Operations Report

- IHSS Program and Public Authority
 - Staff Liaison Bertha Paredez-read the IHSS program & Public Authority updates on behalf of program manager Jessica Cirsena. Reported that the state budget had not yet been finalized;

however, the legislator rejected several proposed cuts that would have impacted IHSS. Final budget details and allocations are expected to be determined through subsequent trailer bills. Announced that the penalty for late CFCO assessments will increase from 3% to 6% effective July 1st. Reported that the BOS approved the HSD budget with no layoffs or furloughs; however, several vacant positions, including support staff positions were eliminated. Commission members engage in brief discussion and ask clarifying questions.

6. Regular Agenda – Action Items

- Consider Medi-Cal Asset Limit Advocacy letter to BOS

Motion to approve Medi-Cal Limit Advocacy Letter to the Board

The commission reviewed and agreed to the proposed Advocacy letter to the Board re: The Medi-Cal Asset Limit.

- First/Second: Molina/Arreola
- Motion passed unanimously

7. Regular Agenda- Information Items

- Announcements
 - None.
- Commission Budget
- Registry Data
- IHSS Consumers
- Livescan Information - Commissioner Auld requested information on whether IHSS participates in any background check portability system. Staff clarified that the Department of Justice does not allow a single Livescan background check to be used across multiple agencies. She also requested a presentation on past scholarship programs that covered fingerprinting fees and an update on the internal fingerprinting machine. Staff reported that IHSS has fingerprinting equipment but cannot operate it due to staffing shortages and budget constraints. A previous church grant once covered provider fingerprinting fees until funds ran out. Commissioners may consider pursuing similar community grant opportunities. The status of the internal fingerprinting machine remains dependent on available staffing

9. Report Outs

- Legislative – Gutierrez-Baeza Volunteered.
- CICA Conference Calls- Staff reported that time-sensitive information about the June 25 congressional hearing on Medi-Cal/IHSS was shared with commissioners prior to the meeting. Volunteer still needed.
- Seniors Commission- Sones – Reported no updates. Karina Aragon, Program Manager-reported that the meeting included an Alzheimer's Presentation; however, the meeting lost quorum when a commissioner departed, and no commission business was conducted.
- Commissions on Disabilities (Molina) reported that the Commission on disabilities also discussed advocacy regarding the Medi-Cal resource (asset) limit letter to the

BOS.

10. Future Agenda Items

- Chair Sones requested a strategic discussion at the August 28, 2026, meeting to review and establish the Commission's vision, goals, and priorities. The Commissioners were encouraged to review the January 28, 2026, IHSS Advisory Commission Biannual report in preparation. The Commission expressed interest in prioritizing future projects, including exploring potential funding opportunities for provider Livescan fee scholarships or grants through CAB. No decisions were made; the item will be returned for further discussion in August.

11. Correspondence- Staff reported receiving the CWDA Adult Budget Memo (May 2026) and noted that the document will be emailed to Commissioners for their review.

12. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:18 pm

Next Regular Meeting: August 28, 2026, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM @ 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 207, Santa Cruz.

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