



# County of Santa Cruz

## IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY

18 W. Beach Street, Watsonville, CA; P.O. Box 1300, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

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### IHSS Advisory Commission

#### Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, August 27, 2021  
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM  
Location: Remote Meeting – Teleconference  
Present: Michael Molesky (Consumer, Chair), Foster Andersen (Consumer), Becky Taylor (Consumer), Linda Campbell (Consumer), Patricia Fohrman (Provider), Jozette Irgang (Consumer)  
Excused: Lois Sones (Seniors Commission, Vice-Chair), Maria Arreola (Provider)  
Absent: None  
Guests: Alicia Morales (Adult and Long-Term Care Director)  
Staff: Juan Magaña (IHSS Public Authority)

#### Agenda

1. Call to Order
  - a. Meeting was called to order at 1:02PM
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
  - a. Agenda Review
    - i. Staff reported that item 3.c.ii was corrected to read “Seniors Commission Meeting Minutes (included with meeting packet)”
    - ii. No other changes made to agenda
  - b. Review and Approval of *June 25, 2021 Minutes*
    - i. Motion to Approve June 25, 2020 minutes called by:
      1. First/Second: Andersen/Campbell
      2. Ayes: Taylor, Fohrman, Irgang, Molesky, Anderson, Campbell
      3. Noes: None
      4. Abstain: Fohrman not present for vote
    - ii. Motion carried
  - c. Correspondence
    - i. Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes (included with meeting packet)
    - ii. Seniors Commission Meeting Minutes (included with meeting packet)
4. Oral Communications and Announcements
  - a. No members of the public present.
5. Updates/Housekeeping
  - a. Reminders from the Chair
    - i. No reminders provided
  - b. Topics & Speakers
    - i. Commission to discuss how they want to address the Master Plan on Aging at a future commission meeting.

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- c. Commission Vacancies
  - i. Two (2) – Consumer Representatives
  - ii. One (1) – Representative of County Advisory Body or County Staff
- 6. Discussion – How to Recruit for Commission Vacancies?
  - a. Staff provided information on how seats on any commission are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. In the past, individuals interested in joining the commission are invited to attend at least one meeting in order to see what the commission does; if interested then they are invited to apply for a vacant seat with the Board of Supervisors.
  - b. Recruitment for vacant seats can be via word of mouth, flyers, website postings, or other means. Commissioners are welcome to invite qualified individuals to attend a meeting to see if the commission is something they would like to join.
  - c. Commission members identified community organizations that could potentially fill a vacancy.
- 7. Discussion - Vaccines for Providers
  - a. Commission members inquired if COVID-19 vaccines were required for IHSS caregivers.
  - b. Staff provide the following information:
    - i. On July 26, 2021, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order which mandates COVID vaccines for health care and state employees.
    - ii. In response to various inquiries from counties and Public Authorities around the state, the California Department of Social Services provided guidance indicating that this Executive Order does not apply to IHSS caregivers. As a result, there is no mandate for IHSS caregivers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
    - iii. As the employer, the recipient of IHSS does have the right to require that their caregiver be vaccinated.
  - c. Taylor mentioned that the Santa Cruz Sentinel published a letter to the editor that discussed the issue of vaccines not being required for IHSS caregivers.
    - i. Staff to obtain a copy of the letter and send to commission members.
- 8. IHSS Program Updates
  - a. Staff provided the following IHSS program updates
    - i. IHSS Social Workers will continue to complete reassessments by phone through the end of the state of emergency unless there is a request for a home visit.
    - ii. Initial assessments (intakes) are being completed in person, with most information gathered over the phone and keeping the in person visit short.
    - iii. We're still awaiting information on how the money for the long-term career pathways and home and community-based services training in the Governor's budget will be allocated.
    - iv. We've heard that CDSS wants to implement the emergency backup system by January 2022 but currently reviewing funding to be provided to counties and statute to define use and purpose.
    - v. CDSS is currently working on the Electronic Services Portal to allow for providers to add and update their address and phone number in the system and recipients to update their phone number. We expect change to be implemented in the next couple months.
    - vi. We are officially off our Quality Improvement Action Plan (QIAP) and in compliance with our annual reassessment rates.
  - b. Morales provided the following information

- i. As a result of all the work that was put in by IHSS Social Work staff to come off the QIAP, overall, there was a 27% increase in authorized services hours.
- ii. The County Board of Supervisors recently approved a resolution to mandate the COVID-19 vaccine to all county staff. For those staff that do not wish to receive the vaccine, they would need to undergo weekly COVID-19 testing.
- iii. Starting 09/13/2021, County staff will begin a hybrid remote work model.
- iv. Demobilization of COVID-19 shelters has started – Santa Cruz and Watsonville Vets hall shelters are now closed. Many of the shelter residents left with temporary or permanent housing in place.
- v. Adult Protective Services received new funding allocations from the state which will allow them to expand services. Additionally, the state redefined the definition of elder to individuals age 60 or older (previously it was at age 65).

## 9. Public Authority Updates

### a. Staff provided the following Public Authority updates

#### i. Negotiations

- 1. The Public Authority and SEIU Local 2015 have finalized negotiations. A tentative agreement was reached on July 16, 2021. Members of SEIU Local 2015 ratified the agreement on August 13, 2021 and the Board of Supervisors approved the new Memorandum of Understanding on August 24, 2021.
- 2. The new contract will expire June 30, 2024 and will increase provider wages as follows:
  - a. As soon as administratively possible, providers will receive a \$1.54 increase in their hourly wage – bringing the hourly wage to \$15.75. We anticipate this increase to occur no later than December 1, 2021.
  - b. On January 1, 2022, providers will receive an additional \$2.00/hour – bring the hourly wage to \$17.75.
- 3. The Public Authority is currently working on implementing the first increase in wages.
- 4. Molesky requested a comparison of hourly wages in neighboring counties
  - a. Morales reported that Monterey County is currently at \$15.29/hour and San Mateo County is at \$15.25/hour.

#### ii. County Code Amendment/Bylaws update

- 1. Staff reported that the changes to the County Code and its relative bylaws that were approved by the Commission have not been finalized. These changes will go to the Board of Supervisors for their first reading on September 14, 2021; the second reading to occur on September 28, 2021. Pending no opposition from the Board, the changes should be approved on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### iii. Provider Recruitment

- 1. Public Authority is looking at identifying providers who work less than the maximum weekly hours. Once this information is obtained, staff will conduct targeted outreach in key areas with consumers without a caregiver and providers who live in, or are currently providing care in the same area.

2. Campbell suggested to bring back the Caregiver Café at the Museum of Art and History – staff reported that this is still an option.

#### 10. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Legislative/Advocacy (Molesky)
  - i. Molesky informed the group that there is a new mandate requiring local health plans to provide additional services in the areas they service. The Alliance is conducting a survey to identify what services are being provided in the county.
- b. Website (Vacant)
- c. CICA Conference Calls (Campbell)
  - i. Campbell informed the group that the main discussion at the last conference call was regarding finding priorities for the \$295 million dollars that is in the budget. Representatives from various groups provided their input. The California Association of Public Authorities suggested it should be used to provide HERO bonus for IHSS providers; SEIU wanted it to go towards training programs; UDW would like to see it go towards training programs and higher wages for IHSS providers.

Meeting adjourned at 2:09PM

**Next Regular Meeting:** September 24, 2021, 1:00PM – 3:00PM