



# 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

### IHSS Advisory Commission

#### Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, January 24, 2020  
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM  
Location: 1400 Emeline Ave. Room 206, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Present: Michael Molesky (Consumer, Chair), Linda Campbell (Consumer), Lois Sones (Seniors Commission), Becky Taylor (Consumer), Jozett Irgang (Consumer), Foster Andersen (Consumer)  
Excused: Maria Arreola (Provider), Patricia Howes (Provider)  
Absent: None  
Guests: Mark Burns (Presenter, Homebridge), Nancy Yellin (Commission on Disabilities), Karina Aragon (IHSS Program Staff)  
Staff: Juan Magaña (Public Authority Manager)

#### Agenda:

1. Call to Order
  - Meeting was called to order @ 1:08PM
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
  - Agenda reviewed, no changes were made
4. Review and Approval of *November 22, 2019 Minutes*
  - Reviewed minutes of the November 22, 2019 meeting, no changes made
  - Motion to approve minutes called by
    - o First/Second: Sones/Campbell
    - o Ayes: Taylor, Irgang, Molesky, Andersen
    - o Noes: none
    - o Abstain: none
  - Motion carried unanimously
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.*
  - Andersen reported that the Coastal Commission received a grant that will provide beach wheelchairs at state parks.
  - Molesky reminded attendees of the Census that will be taking place this year
  - Molesky informed attendees to stay informed of what is going on with the Master Plan on Aging by visiting [www.engageca.org](http://www.engageca.org)
  - Taylor reported that she attended the grand opening of Leo's Haven – a very successful event.
6. Speaker: Homebridge
  - Mark Burns, Executive Director of San Francisco County's Homebridge program, presented the following information:

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.

- Homebridge, a Contract Mode agency, started in 1985
  - Consumers are referred to Homebridge by the county IHSS; consumers cannot self-refer to their services
  - Homebridge serves 1000 consumers per year; has 325 full time caregivers
  - Homebridge is a training organization – they train all registry providers and offer general training to all IHSS providers.
  - Starting pay for Homebridge caregivers is \$18.50/hour and they have a 4-tier pay system; each tier has a \$0.50 pay differential; tiers are based on level of care being provided.
  - Currently there is a waitlist to receive services from Homebridge as the program does not have sufficient caregivers to serve all individuals referred to them.
  - San Francisco City and County covers all costs above the state participation rate (from general fund).
  - A motion was called to send a thank letter to Homebridge for their presentation
    - First/Second: Sones/Campbell
    - Ayes: Taylor, Irgang, Molesky, Andersen
    - Noes: none
    - Abstain: none
  - Motion carried unanimously
7. Correspondence
- The correspondence folder was passed with the following documents:
    - Event flyer: “Dealing with Dementia” presented by Del Mar Caregiver Resource Center. Event details: 02/29/2020, 9am – 2pm @ Capitola Community Center
    - Articles:
      - “New funds for long-term care” from September 2019 AARP Bulletin
      - “The hidden costs of caregiving” from November 2019 AARP Bulletin
      - “A successful 7-year battle for better care” from November 2019 AARP Bulletin
      - “Help on the way for caregivers” from November 2019 AARP Bulletin
      - “Training tellers to stop fraud” from December 2019 AARP Bulletin
      - A plan for fixing caregiver system” from January/February 2020 AARP Bulletin
8. Updates/Housekeeping
- a. Topics & Speakers
    - i. Topics
      1. Molesky requested that Electronic Visit Verification be added to the agenda for the February IHSS Advisory Commission meeting.
    - ii. Speakers:
      1. Staff informed that at the February 28 commission meeting, Sam Treviño from Del Mar Caregiver Resource Center will be presenting on its training program
      2. The commission requested that staff invite a representative from the San Andreas Regional Center to present on the services they provide.
  - b. Commission Vacancies
    - i. Staff reported on the following vacancies
      1. Consumer (current or past) – 1 vacancy

2. Commission or representative of community agency that works with seniors and/or disabled individuals that promotes IHSS goals – 2 vacancies
  - a. Sones reported that she is in the process of changing her appointment to this commitment from a representative of the Seniors Commission to a representative of community agency that works with seniors and/or disabled individuals that promotes IHSS goals.
  - b. Sones also reported that a representative of the Senior Commission will be applying for appointment to this commission.
  - c. Nancy Yellin (guest) is currently on the Commission on Disabilities and will be applying to be appointed to the IHSS Advisory Commission.
9. Biennial Report Review and Approve (Chair)
  - The commission reviewed the draft biennial report and cover letter.
  - Changes to the report and cover letter were recommended.
  - A motion was called to approve the Biennial Report and Cover Letter with the recommended changes
    - o First/Second: Taylor/Irgang
    - o Ayes: Sones, Campbell, Molesky, Andersen
    - o Noes: none
    - o Abstain: none
  - Motion carried unanimously
10. IHSS Program Updates (Aragon)
  - a. Aragon provided the following IHSS Program updates
    - i. MENU Program – The department received a grant from the Alliance to address food insecurity. Social Workers contact IHSS recipients to screen for food insecurity; those who are determined to meet the criteria for food insecurity are offered CalFresh (if not already receiving this benefit). Healthy cooking classes are offered through Teen Kitchen, thus far 12 IHSS caregivers have completed the 4-class series. Upon completion, participants receive a \$25.00 stipend. Future activities will be following up with providers who participated in the cooking classes and their consumers to see if there is a change in their cooking as a result of their participation in the cooking classes.
    - ii. The division has been given authorization to hire a second Program Manager. Sandy Skezas retired in December and the department is looking to fill both positions as soon as possible
    - iii. Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) – Santa Cruz County is in Wave 3 of the EVV implementation. In May, EVV will begin in this county and all IHSS recipients and providers will need to be on Electronic Timesheets by end of June 2020.
    - iv. Mike McConnell announced his retirement at the beginning of June. A recruitment for his position will be coming in the future months.
11. Public Authority Updates (Staff)
  - Staff provided the following Public Authority Updates:
    - o Registry:
      - Currently has 167 active providers; of these 67 are available for additional work. Average hours for work =24 p/wk.

- Caregiver Café/One-Stop Enrollment
  - On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the Public Authority held the last Caregiver Café of 2019.
  - 15 individuals were enrolled as IHSS caregivers
  - 20 IHSS recipients attended the Café portion of the event
  - The Public Authority will plan on holding future events, but is currently working on logistics (location, times, dates, etc.)
- Caring Community Summit
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Caring Community Summit will be held on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, from 9am – 1pm at Twin Lakes Church
  - The theme this year will be Wellness and Selfcare
  - There will be three breakout sessions:
    - Wellness and selfcare
    - Volunteerism and caregiving
    - Companionship and caregiving

## 12. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Seniors Commission (Sones)
  - i. Sones reported that there is an individual from the Seniors Commission that will be applying to be appointed to the IHSS Advisor Commission as a representative of the Seniors Commission
- b. Commission on Disabilities (Taylor) – No report out
- c. Legislative (Molesky)
  - i. Molesky reported that there are a lot of legislative changes coming up and he will be monitoring them and keeping the commission up to date
- d. Website (Taylor) – No report out
- e. CICA Conference Calls (Molesky)
  - i. Molesky reported that he is no longer participating in these calls
- f. CCAH (Vacant) – no report out

Meeting adjourned at 3:02PM

**Next Regular Meeting:** February 28, 2020, 1:00PM – 3:00PM at 1400 Emeline Ave, Room 206, Santa Cruz, CA 95060