



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, June 25, 2021

Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM

Location: Remote Meeting – Teleconference

Present: Lois Sones (Seniors Commission, Vice-Chair), Foster Andersen (Consumer), Becky Taylor (Consumer), Linda Campbell (Consumer), Patricia Fohrman (Provider), Maria Arreola (Provider)

Excused: Michael Molesky (Consumer, Chair), Jozette Irgang (Consumer)

Absent: None

Guests: Alicia Morales (Adult and Long-Term Care Director)

Staff: Jessica Cirksena (IHSS Public Authority)

Agenda

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting was called to order at 1:04PM
2. Roll Call
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Agenda Review
 - i. Agenda reviewed, Commission discussed whether a new section should be added to share County or Human Services Dept. updates that will be provided by Morales at this meeting. Will discuss at the next meeting. No changes made to this agenda.
 - b. Review and Approval of *May 28, 2021 Minutes*
 - i. Reviewed and Approved minutes of the May 28, 2021 meeting.
 - ii. Motion to approve minutes called by:
 - First/Second: Sones/Campbell
 - Ayes: Arreola, Taylor, Fohrman, Anderson, Sones, Campbell
 - Noes: None
 - Abstain: None
 - iii. Motion carried
 - c. Correspondence
 - i. Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes (included with meeting packet)
 - ii. Seniors Commission Meeting Minutes (none posted this year)
4. Oral Communications and Announcements:
 - a. Morales shared the following County updates:
 - i. County is down to 54 active COVID cases, we've 206 deaths.
 - ii. Santacruzhealth.org has a new COVID dashboard.
 - iii. Personnel office sent out updated guidance after CalOSHA guidance was released last week. The new guidance is tied to vaccination status.

Public will continue to be screened in county buildings. Sones asked if county will be releasing vaccine status information. Morales reported not at this time, policy is being reviewed by county counsel and personnel and is driven by CalOSHA requirements.

iv. APS is back to business as usual with home visits.

5. Updates/Housekeeping

a. Reminders from the Chair

i. No reminders provided

b. Topics & Speakers

i. Not discussed

c. Commission Vacancies

i. Two (2) – Consumer Representatives

ii. One (1) – Representative of County Advisory Body or County Staff.

- Sones asked question on how this was filled?

- Morales suggested bylaws should be reviewed for further direction and advised Staff could obtain clarification from CAO's office if needed.

6. Master Plan on Aging

a. Sones and Morales were present on the recent Master Plan on Aging (MPA) planning call.

b. Campbell read aloud the five broad MPA goals.

c. Sones shared MPA was very exciting because it addresses a lot of topics related to In-Home Supportive Services. Sones asked Morales to expand on how the County would be putting MPA into action?

d. Morales provided the following information:

i. MPA is a comprehensive plan and it is a framework for the next ten years.

ii. Every two years, the County lifts up operational objectives that are measurable and actionable. For the Human Services Department, one of the goals lifted up is focused on implementing the MPA. This goal will be shared with the CAO's office because the plan is so broad and comprehensive. At this point, effort will be focused on identifying key partners.

iii. Demographic analysis recently conducted showed individuals 60 and over make up 25% of population in the County currently; that will go up to 30% by 2040.

e. Sones provided the following information:

i. There is a significant amount of money in the budget to support the MPA.

ii. Includes training for caregivers and age friendly communities.

- Morales clarified that the County has signed on in concept as an age friendly community but hasn't received the official designation. The Board of Supervisors will need to formally approve it as it requires a Board action. Following that, the County and cities would need to apply and AARP would need to certify.

7. Vaccines for IHSS Providers

a. Staff provided the following update:

i. A survey was sent out to all providers via e-mail to determine how many providers have been vaccinated, how many are interested in getting vaccinated but have not scheduled their appointment and how many will not be getting vaccinated.

ii. The survey received a relatively low response rate, only received 402

responses. Of those, 387 had received vaccine.

- iii. Respondents were provided contact phone number if they needed assistance scheduling or obtaining more information.
- iv. Community bridges hotline phone number shared with commission if anyone needs assistance registering to receive vaccine.
- v. Prior to systems being put in place, staff registered approximately 1,100 providers to receive their vaccine.

8. IHSS Program Updates

a. Staff provided the following IHSS Program updates:

- i. COVID flexibilities-awaiting guidance from CDSS on when COVID flexibilities will be ending. Have heard from CDSS verbally in meetings that we can expect most flexibilities to end 9/30.
- ii. Quality Improvement Action Plan (QIAP)-IHSS has been on a QIAP for the past two years due to falling behind on reassessments. IHSS has made a lot of progress getting caught up on reassessments and expects to be off of the corrective action plan next fiscal year.
- iii. The 7% cut was permanently repealed in this year's state budget.
- iv. Awaiting trailer bill language to get more information on the money for career pathways for providers and emergency backup systems provided in this year's state budget.

9. Public Authority Updates

a. Staff provided the following Public Authority updates:

- i. Negotiations – continuing negotiations with SEIU provider union. Will provide update to the Commission once contract is finalized and approved.
- ii. Remote enrollment – continuing to complete enrollment requirements remotely and accepting e-mail verification of identity from providers. In-person group orientation is waived at this time.
- iii. Emergency Protective Gear – continuing to offer hand sanitizer, gloves, and masks out of both offices.
- iv. COVID emergency backup system – continues through September 30th.
 - Anderson asked for additional details on emergency back up system and reported he had not been aware of the system.
- v. Direct Deposit – all providers will be required to enroll in direct deposit by 6/30/22. CDSS sent out mailer advising providers of this requirement. If providers do not have bank accounts, will be provided information on pay cards. When providers enrolled in EVV and direct deposit, they are often getting paid within a couple days of submitting timesheets.
 - Taylor expressed concern regarding this requirement as her providers do not want to be required to enroll in direct deposit.
- vi. Registry providers – we have seen a dip in registry providers this past year and are working on collecting data. Commission requested future meeting to discuss recruitment ideas.

10. Subcommittee Reports

a. Legislative/Advocacy (Molesky)

- i. Molesky was not present at this meeting but Sones reported many of the legislative and advocacy updates were covered in PA and MPA sections.

b. Website (Vacant)

- i. No report provided.

c. CICA Conference Calls (Campbell)

- i. Campbell reported there was crossover between recent CICA agenda and much of what had already been discussed. CICA is preparing for their annual meeting and will be reviewing budget. Looking at increasing from \$500 fee to \$700 so Commission will need to discuss whether they want to continue. Campbell shared information on upcoming 7/7 webinar, "Smarter Than A Scammer".

Meeting Adjourned at 2:13PM

Next Regular Meeting: August 27, 2021, 1:00PM – 3:00PM

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