



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, March 24, 2023
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM
Location: 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 206. Santa Cruz, CA
Present: Michael Molesky (Consumer, Chair), Rebecca Jordan (Relative of Consumer), Linda Campbell (Consumer), Jozett Irgang (Consumer), Patricia Fohrman (Provider)
Excused: Lois Sones (Seniors Commission, Vice-Chair), Becky Taylor (Commission on Disabilities), Foster Andersen (Consumer), Maria Arreola (Provider)
Absent: None
Guests: Matthew Sundt (Planning Department), Dawn Polucha (Guest), Catherine Godwin (Guest), Elizabeth Byrd (Sr. Analyst, Human Services Department), Norma Diaz (PA Social Worker I)
Staff: Juan Magaña (IHSS Public Authority), Maribel Gonzalez (Office Assistant III)

Agenda

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting was called to order at 1:02PM; a quorum was present
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
 - a. Agenda reviewed; no changes made
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - i. February 24, 2023 Meeting
 - b. Correspondence
 - i. Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes
 1. January 12, 2023
 - c. Commission Vacancies
 - i. Two (2) – Consumer Representatives
 - d. Motion to approve consent agenda called by:
 - i. First/Second: Campbell/Fohrman
 - ii. Ayes: Molesky, Jordan, Campbell, Irgang, Fohman
 - iii. Noes: None
 - iv. Abstain: None

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.

- v. Absent: Sones, Taylor, Andersen, Arreola
- e. Motion carried unanimously

5. Oral Communications and Announcements:

- a. No oral communications or announcement were made

6. Presentation: Housing Element Update - Matthew Sundt

- a. For the 6th Cycle, the County of Santa Cruz has been allocated 4,634 housing units at specific affordability levels to accommodate the County's projected housing needs.

- b. Sundt presented the following information regarding the County's 6th Cycle Housing Element Update for the Period 2023-2031:

- i. An overview of the Goals for the Housing element was provided to the commission.

- 1. Ensure land is available to accommodate an increase range of housing choices
- 2. Assist in the development of housing
- 3. Remove governmental constrains
- 4. Preserve existing housing units and expand affordability within the existing housing stock
- 5. Promote equal opportunity and production of special needs housing units
- 6. Place future very low and low-income housing in areas with "high resources"

- ii. Sundt disclosed that the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) has increased for each of the following 4 income levels compared to the previous 5th cycle RHNA:

- 1. Very Low-Income Level: 5th Cycle RHNA was 317 units compared to 1,492 now for the 6th cycle, which increase stands at 471%.
- 2. Low Income Level: 5th Cycle RHNA was 207 units compared to 976 now for the 6th cycle, which increase stands at 471%.
- 3. Moderate Income Level: 5th Cycle RHNA was 240 units compared to 586 now for the 6th cycle, which increase stands at 244%.
- 4. Above Moderate-Income Level: 5th Cycle RHNA was 550 units compared to 1,580 now for the 6th cycle, which increase stands at 287%.
- 5. Total RHNA increased from 1,314 allocations to 4,634 with a total percent increase of 353%.

- iii. Sundt informed the commission that the Housing Element is greatly seeking public involvement within the following outlets:

- 1. Community Panels
- 2. Stakeholder Groups

3. Community meeting
 4. Interactive website
 - a. <http://www.sccoplanning.com/2023HousingElement>
 5. Robust outreach and public engagement
- iv. Per Sundt, current activities for the housing element include the following:
1. Just launched website
 2. Will launch public engagement starting Tuesday, April 11 and continue through the year. This includes the community Panel and stakeholder group meetings, which culminate in a final meeting on May 11.
 3. Interactive mapping exercises coincide with the meetings in April.
 4. General public meetings to occur on May 15, 31 and June 28.
- v. Sundt extended the opportunity for questions regarding the housing element.
1. Molesky thanked Sundt for joining the commission and opened the discussion by encouraging questions and/or comments.
 - a. Fohrman asked if the housing element allocations are county owned property?
 - i. Sundt noted allocations are within county jurisdiction.
 - b. Fohrman inquired on availability of accommodations for people with disabilities.
 - i. Sundt stated this concern may be under building official territory administration.
 - ii. Molesky agreed that a big concern is that facilities are not able to accommodate the use of a wheelchair or other appliances. Stated he hopes there will be someone representing the vulnerable population through the housing element.
 1. Sundt expressed how some funding sources do require a percentage of the units to be fully ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. Noted that if the commission has any further questions regarding ADA compliance projects they can discuss the subject further with Suzanne Ise, Principal Planner with County of Santa Cruz.
 - c. Jordan asked if there is a ratio that is part of this project under affordable housing.
 - i. Sundt commented that we have been assigned 4,634 housing allocations for the next 8 years. Which includes the following distribution: Extremely low, very low, low, moderate, and above moderate.

1. Fohrman noted she can not get into affordable housing because she makes “too much money”.
 - a. Molesky agreed that housing is the #1 issue in Santa Cruz for affordability.
- d. Polucha (Guest) added the following questions:
 - i. Will there be enough handicap parking spaces available for these units?
 - ii. Will the housing Element team be analyzing code enforcement complaints and have local oversight?
 1. Sundt recommended scripting particular instances through an email so that the Housing Element can reflect on it.
- c. A reminder to the commission is in place to encourage comments and feedback on the Housing Element to be sent to staff so it can be compiled and sent to Sundt for review.
- d. Commission is welcome to request a copy of the presentation from Staff.

7. Regular Agenda – Action Items

- a. Proposal to Write Letter Regarding Union Participation
 - i. Molesky inquired if the commission is interested in writing a formal letter to the provider’s union requesting, they attend the commission meeting.
 1. Commission members provided their input on this matter.
 2. Staff reported that the local organizer has been invited to our meetings; but they have conflicting meetings that occur at the same time of the commission meetings.
 3. Staff also reported that the Public Authority and union meet each quarter; staff can provide a report to the commission of each meeting, so they are aware what information the union provides at said meetings.
 - ii. The commission agreed that for now, no letter will be written, and they will wait for Staff to report out on the quarterly meetings with the union.

8. Regular Agenda – Information Items

- a. Updates/Housekeeping
 - i. Reminders from the Chair
 1. Molesky thanked those present for participating in the in-person meeting.
 - ii. Topics & Speakers
 1. Staff reminded the commission there will be a representative from Central California Alliance for Health joining next meeting.
- b. Provider Concerns

- i. Fohrman noted she feels that there are several people needing IHSS services who cannot receive them due to the county system structure and there are clients receiving services who do not actually need additional help.
 - 1. Staff mentioned there is no quota for the number of recipients able to join In-Home Supportive Services Program. Anyone can apply and receive services if eligible. If there are people who need the services but do not apply, we are unable to assist them.
 - a. Fohrman clarified she wanted to express how there are several clients within the IHSS Program yet not enough providers to compensate for the demand. Therefore, diminishing our pool of available providers to those less vulnerable.
 - b. Polucha (guest) second Fohrman and added that it seemed Fohrman was describing a lack of oversight and case management.
 - ii. Fohrman also stated she spends a lot of time doing social work rather than in-home support and thought that social workers should have a better home visit system to reduce the amount of people who no longer need the services.
 - 1. Staff added that social workers are currently under a lot of pressure as they each have approximately 200 recipients on their caseloads. They need to follow state mandates and performance measurements. Home visits are conducted once a year so social workers only have 1-2 hours to observe and determine the level of assistance that each client needs.

c. IHSS Program Updates

- i. Staff provided the following updates:
 - 1. Staff provided the following information on behalf of Division Director, Alicia Morales (not present):
 - a. We are looking for a volunteer from this commission to be part of the Countywide Needs Assessment Steering Committee.
 - b. The steering committee is ideally seeking an individual with the following traits:
 - i. An older adult who is a consumer of IHSS Services and knows the community well.
 - ii. Possesses familiarity with underrepresented groups.
 - c. The purpose of the steering committee is to provide input regarding:
 - i. Key indicators that should be measured.
 - ii. Design of the survey tool.
 - iii. Creation of an implementation plan; and

- iv. Actively engaging in recruiting and outreach efforts for both the survey as well as the initial focus groups.
 - d. Time commitment for the steering committee one 2-hour session per month. The initial meeting would be in-person and will be held in the second half of April. Future meeting will be held in-person and/or via Zoom
 - e. Anyone interested in participating in this committee must let staff know so they can be placed on the list.
 - 2. Staff has been selected, by substitute appointment, as the IHSS Program Manager while Jessica Cirksena is on leave.
 - a. Staff may take longer than usual to answer incoming inquiries as he will be overseeing the IHSS Program.
 - d. Public Authority Updates
 - i. Staff introduced Diaz (PA Social Worker I)
 - 1. Diaz informed the committee about tasks that she is responsible for as a social worker I, which includes some of the following:
 - a. Provider Registry
 - i. The most challenging factor, while generating a provider list, is Area. Depending on where the client is residing, regardless of what their needs are, the social worker can tell whether they will or will not have available providers to refer out to them.
 - ii. Another challenge Diaz encounters is finding providers that are willing to do tasks that the most vulnerable recipients require.
 - b. Interventions
 - i. Diaz added that the social worker I's with Public Authority have also been recently assigned interventions. This process includes assisting both clients and providers with timecard disagreements and finding a happy medium.
 - c. Provider Recruitment
 - i. Diaz states social workers also post flyers and advertise at grocery stores, laundromats, as well as social media outlets.
 - e. Subcommittee Reports
 - i. Legislative/Advocacy (Molesky)
 - 1. Molesky inquired on what IHSS' role was during the recent storms.
 - a. Staff shared the following information:
 - i. With the floods and everything that has happened since January, the minute we receive an evacuation

warning for a specific area, IHSS activates the following actions:

1. IHSS identifies any consumers residing in vulnerable areas.
 2. A call is made to those potentially affected to ensure they have a safety line.
 3. For those who do not have a plan B, we coordinate with other agencies to make sure they are able to get them to safety.
2. Molesky stated he will reach out to Janie Whiteford to find out what CICA's goals are for next year.
- ii. Website (Taylor/Andersen)
1. Molesky noted that Taylor and Andersen are not present to talk about website updates. However, did mention the commission should agendize establishing a technology subcommittee for adaptive equipment for consumers in case their care giver does not show up.
- iii. CICA Conference Calls (Campbell)
1. Campbell stated conference call mentioned the following points:
 - a. Asset limits to qualify for Medi-Cal have increased. For a single individual, the asset limit is \$135k; for a couple the limit is \$190k. In 2024, there will be no asset limit, it will be based solely on income to qualify for Medi-Cal.
 - b. There is an additional program available for people who need nursing facility care but choose to stay at home called HCBA Program. There is a self-assessment form available.
 - i. [https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ltc/Pages/Home-and-Community-Based-\(HCB\)-Alternatives-Waiver.aspx](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ltc/Pages/Home-and-Community-Based-(HCB)-Alternatives-Waiver.aspx)
 - c. Hours have been reduced for services such as Meals on Wheels.

9. Adjournment

- a. Staff also reminded the commission that elections for Chair and Vice Chair will be taking place next meeting.
- b. Staff noted that, either in April or in May, a representative from the board will come in to collect the Oath's of Office forms.
- c. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM

Next Regular Meeting: April 28, 2023, 1:00PM – 3:00PM @ 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 206. Santa Cruz, CA