



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, March 26, 2021
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM
Location: Remote Meeting – Teleconference
Present: Michael Molesky (Consumer, Chair), Lois Sones (Seniors Commission, Vice-Chair), Foster Andersen (Consumer), Jozette Irgang (Consumer), Becky Taylor (Consumer), Linda Campbell (Consumer), Patricia Fohrman (Provider), Maria Arreola (Provider)
Excused: None
Absent: None
Guests: Karina Aragon (Division Analyst, ALTC)
Staff: Juan Magaña (IHSS Public Authority)

Agenda

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting was called to order at 1:02PM
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Review and Approval of *February 26, 2021 Minutes*
 - a. Reviewed minutes of the February 26, 2021 meeting, the following changes were made:
 - i. Sones requested she be noted as excused, not absent as she informed PA staff that she had a conflicting meeting and would call in as soon as she could – updated minutes
 - ii. Taylor noted that next regular meeting date was incorrect, should read March 26 (read February 26) – updated minutes
 - b. Motion to approve amended minutes called by:
 - i. First/Second: Andersen/Sones
 - ii. Ayes: Arreola, Taylor, Fohrman, Molesky, Andersen, Sones
 - iii. Noes: None
 - iv. Abstain: Irgang, not present for vote
 - c. Motion carried
5. Oral Communications and Announcements:
 - a. No members of the public participated in meeting
6. Updates/Housekeeping
 - a. Election of Officers
 - i. Staff reported that per county code, the election of officers is to occur at annually at the April meeting. Commissioners were reminded to nominate or self-nominate commission members for both the Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

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- b. Reminders from the Chair
 - i. No reminders provided
- c. Topics & Speakers
 - i. Staff reported that Clay Kempf from the Seniors Council has been invited to talk about the Master Plan on Aging at an upcoming commission meeting; staff is working with Mr. Kempf to finalize a date; Staff also reported that Janie Whiteford from CICA had reached out to staff and informed that she would be able to present at a future commission meeting.
- d. Commission Vacancies
 - i. Staff reported that on 04/13/2021, the Board of Supervisors will finalize the appointment of Becky Taylor as an at-large representative of the Commission on Disabilities. At that time, the Commission will have the following vacancies – two (2) consumer representatives and one (1) representative of county advisory body or county staff.

7. CICA Dues

- a. Staff reported that staff received a dues invoice in the amount of \$500 for the commission's membership with the California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA). Staff asked the commission if they wished to continue their membership and authorize payment of the invoice.
- b. Sones inquired on the commission's budget.
 - i. Staff reported there was sufficient funds in the budget to cover this amount.
- c. Motion to continue the commission's membership with CICA and therefore pay the \$500 membership invoice was called by:
 - i. First/Second: Sones/Taylor
 - ii. Ayes: Irgang, Arreola, Fohrman, Andersen, Molesky, Sones, Taylor, Campbell
 - iii. Noes: None
 - iv. Abstain: none
- d. Motion carried.

8. Food Insecurity

- a. Molesky inquired if the commission believes food insecurity continues to be a priority with the commission. Molesky reminded the group that the Central California Alliance for Health grant ended 12/31/2020.
- b. Aragon provided information on the Great Plates Delivered program which is currently set to expire 04/07/2021 but may be extended by the federal government for an additional month. With this program, eligible elderly individuals have been able to receive up to 3 meals per day; some of the recipients of this program are also receiving IHSS services. Aragon reported that planning is currently underway for when the program is no longer extended.
- c. Molesky reminded the group that food insecurity is a big in Santa Cruz County and IHSS recipients are impacted by this
- d. All commissioners agreed that Food Insecurity in Santa Cruz County should continue to be an item that the commission should focus on.

9. Provider Recruitment

- a. Molesky opened up the floor for commissioners to provide ideas on how to recruit providers.

- i. Fohrman reported that she was trying to get two IHSS providers on the registry, but the information on the website was not clear on how to obtain an application for the registry.
 - 1. Staff to review the webpage and make changes as necessary.
- ii. Molesky mentioned bringing back the caregiver café's once we can safely resume in-person meetings.
- iii. Sones mentioned partnering with Cabrillo and UCSC

10. IHSS Program Updates

- a. Staff provided the following IHSS Program Updates
 - i. Vaccines
 - 1. 130,000 vaccinations have been given to Santa Cruz County residents
 - 2. More than 70% of Santa Cruz County residents over age 65 have been vaccinated and over 30% of all residents over age 16.
 - 3. Recent projections indicate that vaccines will be available to every Santa Cruz County resident by midsummer.
 - 4. All IHSS providers have been offered the vaccine; the department assisted 1,060 providers with scheduling; at this time, there is no way to obtain confirmation that all IHSS providers have been vaccinated.
 - 5. As of 03/15/2021, all IHSS recipients age 16 and over became eligible to receive the vaccine. Recipients are encouraged to go through their primary care physician to obtain the vaccine.
 - 6. The vaccine is being made available to homebound clients; homebound IHSS recipients who need assistance in obtaining their vaccine should contact their IHSS social worker.
 - ii. Paid Sick Leave for IHSS Providers
 - 1. Recently, Governor Newsome signed SB 95 which extended COVID-19 related sick leave to all IHSS providers. Information on this new benefit is being released and more information will be provided at the next commission meeting.

11. Public Authority Updates

- a. Staff provided the following Public Authority updates:
 - i. The Public Authority continues to process enrollment and registry requests remotely.
 - ii. Essential Protective Gear – gloves, masks and hand sanitizer continue to be provided to all IHSS providers upon request.
 - iii. Electronic Visit Verification – 96% of IHSS providers are enrolled in either electronic or telephonic timesheets – there are 108 providers yet to enroll in one of these timesheet options; the PA will be working on enrolling these individuals.

12. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Seniors Commission (Sones)
 - i. Sones reported that the last Seniors Commission meeting primarily focused on the need for vaccinations for seniors.
- b. Commission on Disabilities (Taylor)
 - i. No report out
- c. Legislative (Molesky)
 - i. Molesky reported that a lot of the COVID related bills are expiring and he is monitoring the situation.

- d. Website (Taylor)
 - i. No report out
- e. CICA Conference Calls (Campbell)
 - i. Campbell provided the following information:
 - 1. Karen Keesler provided information on payment for medical accompaniment for IHSS providers and well as some information on SB 95.
 - 2. Solano County Public Authority director Terri Ruggiero provided information on what their Advisory Committee is doing.
- f. Advocacy (Sones)
 - i. Molesky mentioned that for future meetings, this item should be combined with the Legislative report.
 - ii. Sones provided info on the following pieces of legislation
 - 1. SB56 Health for All Seniors – allows for all seniors to apply for Medi-Cal, regardless of immigrant status.
 - 2. AB34 – California Broadband Infrastructure and Distance Learning Act – everyone in CA have access to internet
 - 3. AB 339 – Translators and bilingual speakers in public meetings
- g. County Code Amendment (Molesky)
 - i. Molesky informed that the subcommittee reviewed the most recent version of the proposed language and requested that the term “relative” be changed to “family member”. If this change can be done, this item can be added to the April meeting for the commission to review and vote.
 - 1. Staff to send this request to County Counsel.

Meeting adjourned at 2:11PM

Next Regular Meeting: April 23, 2021, 1:00PM – 3:00PM