



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, May 22, 2020
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM
Location: Remote Meeting – Teleconference
Present: Lois Sones (Seniors Commission), Becky Taylor (Consumer), Jozett Irgang (Consumer), Foster Andersen (Consumer), Maria Arreola (Provider), Linda Campbell (Consumer), Michael Molesky (Consumer, Chair)
Excused: None
Absent: None
Guests: Mike McConnell (Director of Adult Services)
Staff: Juan Magaña (Public Authority Manager)

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
 - Quorum was present, meeting was called to order @ 1:05PM
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
 - Agenda reviewed; no changes made.
4. Review and Approval of *February 28, 2020 Minutes*
 - Reviewed minutes of the February 28, 2020 meeting, no changes made
 - Motion to approve minutes called by:
 - o First/Second: Campbell/Arreola
 - o Ayes: Taylor, Andersen, Irgang, Sones
 - o Noes: None
 - o Abstain: none
 - Motion carried unanimously
5. Oral Communications and Announcements:
 - Campbell wanted the commission to discuss the governor's budget and the effects it would have on IHSS; Sones mentioned that this topic would be discussed with item #9 as the budget is directly impacted by COVID-19
6. Election of Officers
 - Staff informed the commission that the election of officers was to take place at the April Commission meeting; this meeting was cancelled and as result, the commission would now need to elect officers.
 - o The current chair is Michael Molesky – who was not present for this portion of the meeting – but per conversation that Molesky had with staff the week prior, he is willing to continue as chair if there are no other commission members interested in taking on this role.
 - o The Vice Chair is current vacant as the previous chair resigned from the commission back in February.

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- A call was made for individuals to nominate or self-nominate for either position
 - Andersen nominated Michael Molesky to continue as Chair for the commission.
 - o A motion was called to appoint Michael Molesky as Chair for the IHSS Advisory Commission
 - First/Second: Campbell/Taylor
 - Ayes: Arreola, Andersen, Irgang
 - Noes: None
 - Abstain: none
 - o Motion carried unanimously
 - Campbell nominated Lois Sones to fill the vacancy as Vice Chair for the commission
 - o A motion was called to appoint Lois Sones as Vice Chair for the IHSS Advisory Commission
 - First/Second: Campbell/Taylor
 - Ayes: Arreola, Andersen, Irgang
 - Noes: None
 - Abstain: none
 - o Motion carried unanimously
7. By-Laws Review and Proposal of Amendments
- At the February commission meeting, staff was tasked with researching the feasibility of changing County code; staff provided the information:
 - o Two options are available:
 - First: keep County code as is and change language in By-Laws to be in line with County code – this option would be the fastest as it would only require the new language to approved by the Commission and the By-Laws to be sent to the Board for approval – this could be completed by June if done timely
 - Second: change county code to allow for the commission’s membership to include “an organization that advocates for people with disabilities or seniors”. This option is feasible but can take a few months to finalize – realistically, September would be the soonest this can be done.
 - o Staff asked what the commission would want to do:
 - Sones – stated that it would make sense to change county code, as this would allow the commission to change their by-laws.
 - Taylor – asked if Kaite McGrew, Commission’s Coordinator for the Seniors Commission and Commission on Disabilities, could fill the vacancy as a representative of County Staff.
 - Molesky proposed that the commission establish a workgroup to help staff finalize this
 - A motion was called to amend county code to include a representative of County staff or an organization that advocates for people with disabilities or seniors.
 - o First/Second: Taylor/Irgang
 - o Ayes: Molesky, Andersen, Arreola
 - o Noes: None
 - o Abstain: none
 - Motion carried unanimously
8. Updates/Housekeeping
- a. Reminders from the Chair
 - i. Molesky reported that he spoke with Janie Whiteford from CICA and we will have her come down as soon as we can have an in-person meeting

b. Topics & Speakers

- i. Staff provided a list of Speakers and Topics that was compiled from past meetings:
 1. Fraud, Senior Companion program, Area Agency on Aging, Emergency Preparedness, Seniors Council, Adaptive technologies for persons with disabilities, Central California Alliance for Health, California Exchange, Representative from Office of Emergency Services.
- ii. Reminder to commission to let staff know if there are any recommendation for speakers and topics.

c. Commission Vacancies

- i. Current vacancies are:
 1. Consumer – 1
 2. Provider – 1
 3. Commission or Staff – 2
- ii. Staff reported that the Provider vacancy will soon be filled as the Board will appoint Patricia Fohrman to the Commission at the next Board meeting

9. COVID-19 Discussion

- Commission members provided the following comments regarding COVID-19
 - o Sones – Budget has been directly impacted by COVID-19; proposed 7% cut to IHSS will impact consumers and providers; Adult day healthcare, MSSP and other Medi-Cal services are being cut. As a commission, we need to put a lot of energy into advocating and the sooner we do this, the better we will be. Would like to hear from consumers and providers on how they are being impacted by COVID-19.
 - o Taylor – Commission on Disabilities has started a subcommittee to investigate COVID-19; Taylor is part of this subcommittee. The subcommittee has questions on provider safety regarding COVID-19.
 - o Andersen - lost 2 providers due to COVID-19.
 - o Campbell – would like to see data on how many people will be bumped off Medi-Cal due to the proposed income limit changes. She would like to encourage participation in public meetings. Would like to know if AARP would be a good advocate against these proposed budget cuts.
 - o Irgang – has been more flexible with her providers in this situation; it is getting hard to keep herself motivated during this time. Has had to let go of one of her caregivers and now has to take into consideration new precautions due to COVID-19.
 - o Arreola – encourages everyone to be strong advocates; make phone calls and advocate for providers, seniors, everyone.
 - o Molesky – recapped comments from commissioners
 - Has contact info for AARP and will relay this to Staff
 - Seems like the commission would like to form an advocacy subcommittee or a joint subcommittee with the Commission on Disabilities.
 - Sones liked the idea of an advocacy subcommittee and was wondering if anyone would be interested in working together.
 - o Campbell stated she would be interested in joining this subcommittee
 - o Taylor also volunteered for this subcommittee

- Molesky appointed an emergency subcommittee on advocacy comprised of Sones, Campbell and Taylor.
- Has a concern with the elimination of Adult day healthcare and if this will increase the need for caregivers
- Masks and PPE – there is huge need for these and will advocate for them

10. IHSS Program Updates (McConnell)

- McConnell thanked the commission for their work in these unprecedented times.
- He requested that the commission let him, or staff, know of any issues they would like the department to advocate on their behalf
- McConnell is currently serving as acting director for the Family and Children Services division
- Regarding Governor's budget/may revise, there is still time to move on items as tax deadlines have been postponed. There are some disturbing proposed cuts at this time, and we are advocating via our associations to not cut programs
- At the county level, the county depends on federal/state monies and due to the current situation, the county is considering furloughs, layoffs and other cost savings measures. We don't have enough information at this time as we are just beginning to analyze what we are receiving from the state.
- The department distributed cloth facemasks that were donated by community groups; distributions were in north and south county as well as San Lorenzo Valley.

11. Public Authority Updates (Staff)

- Staff provided the following Public Authority Updates:
 - Since mid-March, all Public Authority staff have been working remotely, but continue to provide all PA services; referral lists are being provided via phone, email or regular mail. Enrollment processes have been modified to eliminate public contact – all enrollment activities are all done electronically and via mail.
 - Emergency Back-Up Registry – the state provided funding and mandated all counties to establish an emergency back-up system.
 - Consumers who lose their provider due to a COVID-19 related reason can contact the Public Authority and request an emergency back-up provider; the emergency back-up provider will receive a \$2.00/hour wage differential for providing back-up services to the consumer until their regular provider returns to work.
 - Funding for this back-up system was to expire on 6/30/2020, but with the May revise, the governor has proposed funding be extended until 12/31/2020
 - To date, 6 consumers have accessed the emergency back-up system and the Public Authority has been able to find a back-up provider for all 6 consumers.
 - Personal Protective Equipment/Essential Protective Gear
 - The state initially sent 250k pieces of masks and gloves to all counties in California; Santa Cruz received 1200 of each.
 - Initial guidance indicated that these items were only for providers who met criteria set by the Department of Social Services.
 - The Public Authority distributed supplies at joint distribution with IHSS; reusable cloth facemasks were distributed to select providers – those that work with high risk consumers and those that work with multiple consumers. At this distribution, Public Authority staff did a quick

- screening to see if they met the criteria established by the state and those who qualified received additional facemasks. In all, 1100 facemasks were distributed to providers at the distribution events
- The state recently released restriction on who can get Essential Protective Gear and as a result, it is now to be made available to all IHSS providers.
 - A second distribution event for reusable facemasks is scheduled for May 27th in south county and May 30th in mid county.
 - Regarding safety equipment, the PA is currently only able to provide gloves to IHSS providers. We have not been able to secure facemasks or antibacterial gel from our vendors as these items are being prioritized for first responders and medical professionals.
- Provider Trainings
 - The training curriculum for Fiscal Year 20-21 has been finalized
 - Due to our current situation, the first three trainings will be done via webinar; down the road, we will reassess where we are at and determine if we will be able to resume in-person trainings for the latter half of the fiscal year or continue with webinar trainings.
 - The selected trainings are:
 - Chemical Hazards in the Workplace (carry over from this fiscal year)
 - Human Behavior, Motivation & Resilience
 - Building Trust and Confidence
 - Working with Non-Compliant Clients
 - Planning and Preparation of Meals
 - Infection Control in Home Care

12. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Seniors Commission (Sones)
 - i. Commission has not met due to COVID-19
- b. Commission on Disabilities (Taylor)
 - i. Teleconference held this month – see agenda item # 9 for updates
- c. Legislative (Molesky) – no update
- d. Website (Taylor) – no update
- e. CICA Conference Calls (Molesky)
 - i. CICA is contacting every county advisory committee and wanting to know if they are interested in an CICA training on advocacy
 - ii. Campbell volunteered to take over this subcommittee
 - 1. Molesky appointed Campbell to replace Molesky in the CICA Calls Conference Calls subcommittee
- f. CCAH (Vacant) – no update

Next Regular Meeting: June 26, 2020, 1:00PM – 3:00PM