



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, May 27, 2022
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM
Location: Remote Meeting
Present: Michael Molesky (Consumer, Chair), Lois Sones (Seniors Commission, Vice-Chair), Becky Taylor (Consumer), Linda Campbell (Consumer), Patricia Fohrman (Provider), Foster Andersen (Consumer), Jozett Irgang (Consumer), Maria Arreola (Provider)
Excused: None
Absent: None
Guests: Jessica Cirksena (IHSS and Public Authority Program Manager)
Staff: Juan Magaña (IHSS Public Authority)

Agenda

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting was called to order @ 1:04PM; a quorum was present
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
 - a. No changes made to published agenda
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - i. April 22, 2022 Meeting
 - ii. April 29, 2022 Special Meeting
 - b. Commission Vacancies
 - i. Two (2) – Consumer Representatives
 - ii. One (1) – Representative of an organization that advocates for people with disabilities or seniors
 - c. Motion to approve amended consent agenda called by:
 - i. First/Second: Sones/Taylor
 - ii. Ayes: Molesky, Sones, Taylor, Andersen, Campbell, Arreola
 - iii. Noes: None
 - iv. Abstain: Irgang, Fohrman (not present for vote)
5. Oral Communications and Announcements:

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.

- a. No oral communications or announcements were made

6. Regular Agenda – Action Items

a. IHSS Advisory Commission Meeting Location (AB 361)

- i. The commission reviewed the AB 361 findings and determined the need to continue holding meetings remotely.
- ii. Motion to approve the AB 361 findings and hold the next IHSS Advisory Commission meeting remotely was called by:
 - 1. First/Second: Taylor/Irgang
 - 2. Ayes: Molesky, Sones, Taylor, Andersen, Campbell, Irgang, Arreola
 - 3. Noes: None
 - 4. Abstain: Fohrman (not present for vote)
- iii. Motion carried unanimously

b. IHSS Provider Training Curriculum FY 2022-2023

- i. The commission reviewed the available training topics, as provided to the Public Authority by the Health Project Center
- ii. The following training topics were selected for fiscal year 2022-2023:
 - 1. Introduction to Palliative Care
 - 2. Person Centered Care
 - 3. Abuse and Mandated Reporting
 - 4. Depression & Anxiety
 - 5. Dementia Care Challenges: Anxiety, Agitation, & Anger
 - 6. Dementia Care Challenges: Wandering, Sleep, & Sundowning
- iii. A motion was called to approve the selected training topics for the fiscal year 2022-2023 IHSS provider training series.
 - 1. First/Second: Sones/Campbell
 - 2. Ayes: Molesky, Sones, Taylor, Andersen, Campbell, Irgang, Arreola, Fohrman
 - 3. Noes: None
 - 4. Abstain: None
- iv. Motion carried unanimously

c. CICA Membership FY 2022-2023

- i. Staff informed that the Public Authority received the California IHSS Consumer Alliance membership dues invoice for fiscal year 2022-2023 in the amount of \$750.00. Along with the dues was a letter to the commission requesting the commission to renew its membership; a list of the accomplishments for the current fiscal year; and a list of CICA's goals for the upcoming fiscal year.
- ii. A motion was called to renew the commission's CICA membership for fiscal year 2022-2023
 - 1. First/Second: Taylor/Campbell

2. Ayes: Molesky, Sones, Taylor, Andersen, Campbell, Irgang, Arreola, Fohrman
3. Noes: None
4. Abstain: None

iii. Motion carried unanimously

d. Meals on Wheels

- i. Sones reported that Meals on Wheels (MOW) received a notice of eviction for its Live Oak kitchen, congregate dining site, and administrative offices. The Live Oak School District, the entity that owns the property, has given MOW 6-months to vacate the premises. MOW now has to find a new location, with a commercial kitchen in a short period of time.
- ii. A motion was called to write a letter to the Live Oak School District Board of Directors requesting that they consider extending the eviction notice by 1 year, giving MOW 18 months to find a new location. In addition, the commission to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors asking the Board to assist MOW with finding a new property for them.
 1. First/Second: Sones/Irgang
 2. Ayes: Molesky, Sones, Taylor, Andersen, Campbell, Irgang, Arreola, Fohrman
 3. Noes: None
 4. Abstain: None

iii. Motion carried unanimously

7. Regular Agenda – Information Items

a. Updates/Housekeeping

- i. Reminders from the Chair
 1. *This item was not discussed*
- ii. Topics & Speakers
 1. *This item was not discussed*

b. IHSS Advance Pay

- i. An informational hand out describing the Advance Pay program was included in the meeting packet for commission members to review.

c. Provider Vaccine Requirement

- i. A copy of the most recent letter from the California Department of Social Services to all IHSS care providers informing them of the COVID-19 vaccine and booster requirement was included in the meeting packet for commission members to review.

d. Provider Concerns

- i. Molesky informed the commission that this item will now be a standing agenda item as it is important to hear any provider related concerns.
- ii. Fohrman inquired on the eligibility for health benefits for IHSS care providers. Stated that a provider was working for a consumer that was authorized 79 hours and 48 minutes per month and wanted to know if

IHSS was deliberately authorizing hours under the minimum number of hours required to become eligible for health benefits (80 hours per month).

1. Staff reported that hours authorized for the IHSS recipient are based solely on the needs of the consumer. The minimum number of hour requirement for health care eligibility has no factor in determining the level of need for the IHSS recipient.

e. IHSS Program Updates

- i. Jessica Cirksena, IHSS and Public Authority Program Manager, provided the following information:

1. Permanent provider back-up system: changes to the Governor's May revise include:
 - a. Increased maximum number of hours from 80 to 160.
 - b. Delayed implementation to 10/01/2022.
 - c. Caregivers will receive a \$2.00/hour wage differential under this program.
 - d. The current COVID-19 emergency back-up system would be expanded from 6/30/2022 to 09/30/2022 to serve as a bridge between both programs.
2. Medi-Cal redeterminations will resume once public health emergency ends.
 - a. Staff is working with Employment and Benefit Services Division to ensure IHSS recipient addresses are updated and informing them to submit their redetermination paperwork to not lose their Medi-Cal eligibility.
3. Direct deposit for all IHSS care providers will be required as of 7/1/2022
4. IHSS Provider Health Benefits:
 - a. There are 282 IHSS providers currently enrolled in the health plan offered through Santa Cruz County.
 - b. The Health Care Trust, the entity administering health benefits for Santa Cruz County IHSS providers, will be working with the Public Authority to increase enrollment
 - c. Language will be provided by the Health Care Trust and will be added to the Public Authority website.
 - d. Fohrman reported that SEIU 2015 offers health benefits to its members through Blue Cross/Blue Shield so this may be a reason why enrollment in the Santa Cruz County plan is low.
5. IHSS Career Pathways
 - a. A new program set to start 10/1/2022.
 - b. The goals of the program are:

- i. Recruit, train, and retain a network of high-skilled care workers.
 - ii. Improve consumer experience and care outcomes.
 - iii. Support a career ladder that allows care workers to build their skills and opportunities for career advancement.
 - c. There are five (5) pathways available to the IHSS providers and will provide a wealth of health care educational knowledge:
 - i. Category 1: General Pathways
 - 1. General Health and Safety for Caregivers
 - 2. Adult Education
 - ii. Category 2: Specialized Pathways
 - 1. Cognitive Impairments and Behavioral Health
 - 2. Complex Physical Care Needs
 - 3. Transitioning into In-Home Care
 - d. Providers who choose to participate can get paid for the time in training and may qualify for payments for completing training in particular areas.

6. Registry Recruitment

- a. An online registry application has been created; applications for the registry can now be completed online or via paper if requested by the applicant
- b. Targeted recruitment efforts are currently focusing on providers residing in south county but have clients in north county.
- c. Registry recruitment flyers have been posted in various locations in Scotts Valley and Watsonville
- d. To date, the Public Authority has received 55 registry applications and has add 34 new providers to the registry. In 2021, the Public Authority added 32 providers, so our efforts have already exceeded last years numbers.

f. Public Authority Updates

- i. This item was not discussed as all Public Authority updates were provided with the IHSS program updates.

g. Subcommittee Reports

- i. Legislative/Advocacy (Molesky)
 - 1. No report was provided.
- ii. Website (Taylor/Andersen)
 - 1. No report was provided.

iii. CICA Conference Calls (Campbell)

1. Campbell reported that Leora Filosena was the guest speaker at this month's CICA conference call. Leora is the new Deputy Director of Adult Programs at the Department of Social Services.
2. CICA will be offering a training for IHSS recipients on how to manage providers.

8. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 2:35PM

Next Regular Meeting: June 24, 2022, 1:00PM – 3:00PM