



# 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, November 20, 2020  
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM  
Location: Remote Meeting – Teleconference  
Present: Michael Molesky (Consumer, Chair), Lois Sones (Seniors Commission, Vice-Chair), Foster Andersen (Consumer), Linda Campbell (Consumer), Jozette Irgang (Consumer), Becky Taylor (Consumer), Maria Arreola (Provider)  
Excused: Patricia Fohrman (Provider)  
Absent: None  
Guests: Mike McConnel (ALTC Division Director), Karina Aragon (Division Analyst, ALTC)  
Staff: Juan Magaña (Public Authority Manager)

#### Agenda:

1. Call to Order
  - a. Meeting was called to order at 1:04pm; a quorum was present
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
  - a. Agenda reviewed; the following change was made:
    - i. Item # 8 was removed as no new update was available; County Code Amendment subcommittee provided an update in the Subcommittee report
4. Review and Approval of *September 25, 2020 Minutes*
  - a. Reviewed minutes of the September 25, 2020 meeting; no changes made
  - b. Motion to approve amended minutes called by:
    - i. First/Second: Campbell/Sones
    - ii. Ayes: Arreola, Irgang, Molesky, Taylor, Andersen
    - iii. Noes: None
    - iv. Abstain: None
  - c. Motion carried
5. Oral Communications and Announcements
  - a. No announcements made
6. Updates/Housekeeping
  - a. Reminders from the Chair
    - i. Molesky reminded the group to stay safe and wear masks.
  - b. Topics & Speakers
    - i. Molesky informed the group that given the current health crisis we will not have public meetings until at least the spring and will continue to hold our meetings via teleconference. However, we can have a guest speaker call in to present information, if the commission chooses. Molesky inquired if

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there are any topics that the commission would like to have discussed at a future meeting?

1. Andersen would like to have someone talk about emergency plans and where to go.
    - a. Molesky referenced the information that was received from the Volunteer Center at the last meeting.
  2. Sones would like to include disaster preparedness back on a future agenda; particularly the wildfires, rain and mudslides that are anticipated to occur this winter.
    - a. Molesky asked staff to reach out to the Commission on Disabilities and Seniors Commission to see if they are interested in working together on this issue.
  3. Molesky asked to invite Janie Whiteford from CICA to participate in a future call to discuss what is going on at the state level and what other counties and advisory groups are doing during this current health crisis.
- c. Commission Vacancies
- i. Current vacancies are:
    1. Consumer – 1
    2. Commission or Staff – 2

#### 7. 2021 Meeting Schedule

- a. The proposed 2021 IHSS Advisory Commission meeting schedule was provided to commission members in advance.
- b. Staff informed that the meeting schedule follows the currently schedule as listed on the commission's by-laws, the fourth Friday of the month, with no meeting in July or December. However, the fourth Friday in November 2021 falls on a county holiday and as a result, the November meeting will take place on the third Friday on November 19, 2021.
- c. Taylor inquired about changing the meeting time from 1-3pm to 1:30- 3:30pm.
  - i. The chair indicated that the commission recently changed the time of the meeting from 1:30-3:30 to the current meeting time of 1:00-3:00pm and given our current meeting format, teleconference, there is no need to change the meeting time at this time.
  - ii. Taylor was amenable to this.
- d. Motion to approve the 2021 IHSS Advisory Commission Meeting Schedule called by:
  - i. First/Second: Taylor/Anderson
  - ii. Ayes: Arreola, Irgang, Molesky, Campbell, Sones
  - iii. Noes: None
  - iv. Abstain: None
- e. Motion carried

#### 8. County Code/By-Laws Language Changes

- a. This item was removed from the agenda

#### 9. IHSS Program Updates

- a. McConnell provided the following IHSS Program update:
  - i. Alicia Morales, the new Adult and Long-Term Care services division director started this week.
  - ii. McConnell reported that his last day with the county will be 11/30/2020; he expressed how grateful it has been working with the commission throughout his tenure with the county.

1. Molesky requested that Mike connect Ryan Althaus with Alicia Morales so he can continue the work that Mike and Ryan began in our county.
  2. Sones thanked Mike for everything that he has done for the county.
- b. Aragon reported the following:
- i. 98% of IHSS recipients are enrolled in either Electronic Timesheets (ETS) or Telephonic Timesheets (TTS).
  - ii. Social workers are reaching out to client to officer assistance with TTS enrollment or signing up for ETS.
  - iii. The department was looking at opening up public use computers at the Human Services Department office at 18 West Beach St in Watsonville; however, the county has since been moved back to the Purple tier for COVID-19 and as result, this has been put on hold.
  - iv. New federal requirement requires IHSS providers to check-in and check-in daily at the start and end of their shift and the system must capture their location (GPS) when the provider checks in and out of work. As a result of this new requirement, the state is holding stakeholder meetings to seek input from the public regarding these changes. For the moment, the state will be paying the monthly penalty until they are in compliance with this requirement.

#### 10. Public Authority Updates

- a. Staff provided the following Public Authority updates:
- i. On average, the registry currently has 170 to 180 active providers on its registry, but of these, less than half are actually available to take on additional work. As a result, Public Authority staff struggle to meet the demands of IHSS recipients. Next month, Public Authority staff will begin exploring recruitment options for the registry, particularly how to recruit in this current health crisis.
    1. Molesky would like the Public Authority to include COVID testing for providers in their discussions about
  - ii. Essential Protective Gear (gloves, facemasks and antibacterial gel) continues to be provided to recipients and providers upon request in both north and south county locations.
  - iii. 92% of providers are enrolled in either ETS or TTS.

#### 11. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Seniors Commission (Sones)
- i. Sones provided the following:
    1. The Seniors Commission met and discussed that everyone is concerned about the effects of the pandemic on seniors. Isolation is a big problem and many organizations are working on this issue.
    2. Shortage of caregivers has increased due to the pandemic and there is no real solution to this problem.
- b. Commission on Disabilities (Taylor)
- i. Taylor reported that the Commission on Disabilities has met, but there is no new information to report at this time.
- c. Legislative (Molesky)
- i. Molesky reported that he met with Clay Kempf to inquire on the Master Plan on Aging and asked him to provide any information to staff so the commission can review it.
- d. Website (Taylor)

- i. No report provided
- e. CICA Conference Calls (Campbell)
  - i. Campbell provided the following information:
    1. Governor's executive orders regarding COVID flexibilities have been determined to be not legal by the court; this impacts the commission as one of the executive orders temporarily eliminates some of the requirements of the Brown Act. The governor has appealed this decision and we are waiting to hear the final outcome.
    2. Best practices from different communities throughout the state. Humboldt county published a bulletin with various community resources and posting it at doctor's offices which has been successful.
- f. Advocacy (Sones)
  - i. No report provided
- g. County Code Amendment (Molesky)
  - i. Molesky provided the following update:
    1. Staff obtained samples of other Advisory Committee by-laws from other counties in the state.
    2. The subcommittee met to discuss what they would like county code to read. This information was passed to staff so they can have county counsel provide alternate options for the subcommittee to review.
    3. Staff reported that county counsel had received the comments from the subcommittee and would work on providing alternate options for the code language.
    4. This information was not received in time before this meeting but will be forwarded to the subcommittee members as soon as it is received.

Meeting adjourned at 1:52pm

**Next Regular Meeting:** January 22, 2021, 1:00PM – 3:00PM