



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, September 25, 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), Patricia Forhman (Provider), Jozette Irgang (Consumer; Maria Arreola (Provider)
Excused: Becky Taylor (Consumer),
Absent: None
Guests: Jessica Cirksena (Program Manager IHSS/PA), Karina Aragon (Division Analyst, ALTC)
Staff: Juan Magaña (Public Authority Manager)

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting was called to order at 1:06PM; a quorum was present
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
 - a. Agenda reviewed; no changes made
4. Review and Approval of *June 26, 2020 Minutes*
 - a. Reviewed minutes of the June 26, 2020 meeting; no changes made
 - b. Motion to approve amended minutes called by:
 - i. First/Second: Campbell/Andersen
 - ii. Ayes: Sones, Arreola, Irgang, Molesky
 - iii. Noes: None
 - iv. Abstain: Forhman (not present for vote)
 - c. Motion carried
5. Oral Communications and Announcements:
 - a. No announcements made
6. Updates/Housekeeping
 - a. Reminders from the Chair
 - i. Molesky reminded the commission to wear masks at all times, even when caregiver is there providing services as this is the most important thing that we can do for prevention.
 - b. Topics & Speakers
 - i. Molesky reminded the commission to forward topics for future commission meetings to Staff
 - c. Commission Vacancies
 - i. No report made
7. County Code/By-Laws Language Changes

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- a. County Code:
 - i. Staff clarified that no changes have been officially made; the proposed changes have been vetted through county counsel. The proposed options were made based on feedback provided to county counsel by staff.
 - ii. Molesky reported that he reviewed the proposed options for the changes and is not comfortable with having County Staff be part of the commission and this was included in all 3 options, as it takes away the impartiality of the commission. Furthermore, Molesky noted that the proposed options did not specifically include representatives from the Commission on Disabilities and Seniors Commissions. As a result, he would like to table this item for a future meeting as he would like to do further research on this.
 - iii. A motion was called to table the changes to the County Code until further research can be made and a discussion be had with county counsel
 - 1. First/Second: Anderson/Sones
 - 2. Ayes: Campbell, Irgang, Arreola, Molesky, Forhman,
 - 3. Noes: None
 - 4. Abstain: None
 - iv. Motion carried unanimously

b. By-Laws:

- i. Staff reported that the current By-Laws are not in line with County Code:
 - 1. Section 4(c) – currently states that officers are to be elected every other year; county code reads that they are to be elected annually at the April meeting.
 - 2. Section 8(b) – currently reads 2 persons from existing County advisory bodies and one representative of a community-based organization that supports seniors and disabled individuals and IHSS goals and objectives; to match county code, it should read Three persons from existing County advisory bodies, or two persons from existing County advisory bodies and one representative of County staff.
- ii. Molesky inquired on when the current code was amended and would like to review guidelines under AB 1682 to review the requirements for advisory body membership. Molesky requested to schedule a meeting with county counsel and the County Code Amendment subcommittee.
- iii. A motion was called to table the By-Laws changes until the County Code Amendment subcommittee is able to review this information and meet with county counsel
 - 1. First/Second: Sones/Irgang
 - 2. Ayes: Campbell, Arreola, Forhman, Andersen, Molesky
 - 3. Noes: None
 - 4. Abstain: None
- iv. Motion carried unanimously

8. Emergency Preparedness Program for Seniors

- a. Staff provided the following information on the Emergency Preparedness program that is available to seniors in Santa Cruz County:
 - i. The Santa Cruz Volunteer center has partnered with the California for All Movement and Listos California to help its community prepare for emergencies and disasters. They currently offer 2 specialized emergency preparedness programs targeting Seniors and Spanish speaking families

- ii. An emergency preparedness kit is mailed to each participant; they have a group of trained volunteers that call people and assist them:
 - 1. Create a Go-Kit that they can be available to be taken in the event of an emergency
 - 2. They assist with completing their File of Life plan which includes Buddy or Support network contacts, out of area contact and neighbors.
 - 3. Establish a “know where to go and how to get there” plan
 - 4. Sign-up for Alerts and notifications
- iii. The volunteer center offers a variety of online classes such as texting and personal emergency preparedness
- iv. The program is being funded through a grant; funding is currently available until first week of December
- v. Anyone who is interested in this program can call the Volunteer Center at 831-427-5070 or email at volunteer@scvolunteercenter.org

9. IHSS Program Updates

- a. Staff provided the following update on behalf of Mike McConnell:
 - i. A new Adult Services division director was selected, Alicia Morales. She will be starting in mid-November
 - ii. Sales tax and vehicle license fees that fund adult services are coming in at a higher rate than anticipated by the State. If the trend continues through the fiscal year, it means we could avoid cuts to IHSS in fiscal year 21-22.
 - iii. We have one IHSS supervisor position that we had to freeze for this fiscal year. COVID and the fires have impacted our workload and we’re looking to hire Extra Help social workers to help us catch up.
- b. Jessica Cirksena, Program Manager for IHSS/PA, provided the following info regarding the department’s response to the recent fires:
 - i. There was approximately 318 IHSS consumers in evacuation zones.
 - ii. Outreach to individuals in these zones included phone calls to individuals and their emergency contacts in the event that they weren’t able to reach the consumer.
 - iii. Follow up calls with consumers were made to see where they ended up going (shelters, hotels, family, out of town, etc.).
 - iv. Worked with partner agencies to set up resources for evacuees.
 - v. 128 consumers were assisted with hotel vouchers; others went with friends/families or outside of county.
 - vi. 7 IHSS clients lost their homes in the fire and the department is working with them to find long term housing for them; 2 had severe smoke damage and cannot return to their home at this time.
- c. Karina Aragon, Sr. Analyst for the Adult Services division, provided the following information:
 - i. MENU grant from the Central California Alliance for Health
 - 1. A purchase order has been approved for 38 IHSS clients to receive 12 weeks of meals from Teen Kitchen Project.
 - ii. Great Plates Delivered program
 - 1. The program has been extended to 10/9/2020.
 - 2. As of this date, the program has served 728 clients.
 - 3. Meals are being provided by 6 vendors: SwingTime, Teen Kitchen, Colectivo Felix, Back Nine, Pearl of the Ocean, Roaring Camp

4. Overall, over 100,000 meals have been delivered to individuals in who meet the eligibility requirements.

iii.

10. Public Authority Updates

a. Staff provided the following PA updates:

i. IHSS Provider Enrollment

1. Enrollment activities remain constant; all enrollment is done remotely via web, mail or email

ii. Essential Protective Gear

1. The PA continues to provide Essential Protective Gear to consumers and providers upon request
2. The state has provided gloves and reusable cloth facemasks to the PA
3. Hand sanitizer is also being provided to providers only – but this is only as we have it available.

iii. Electronic Visit Verification

1. 89% of providers have online account or are signed up for Telephonic Time Sheets
2. 84% of consumers have an online account or are signed up to approve timesheets via phone (TTS)

11. Subcommittee Reports

a. Seniors Commission (Sones)

i. Sones provided the following update:

1. The Seniors Commission has had a lot of discussion on what is happening with seniors and the COVID epidemic. There is no congregation at this point such as Elderday and senior lunch sites; these places are no longer available for seniors to get out and as a result, there is a lot more isolation and loneliness.
2. Elderday in collaboration with the cities of Santa Cruz and Watsonville parks and recreation departments and Santa Cruz county parks and recreation have developed a program called “Senior Center without Limits” which provides a variety of free online classes. Thus far, they have had 1400 seniors participate in these online classes.
3. The county is now the lead for the age friendly initiative...this has been taken over from the area agency on aging.
4. Regarding COVID – 80% of the deaths in the county have been people over the age of 60.

b. Commission on Disabilities (Taylor)

i. No report out

c. Legislative (Molesky)

- i. Molesky reported that California and the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services have come into an agreement to keep funding for Medi-Cal and other senior programs.

d. Website (Taylor)

i. No report out

e. CICA Conference Calls (Campbell)

- i. Campbell reported that the 8/19 call was primarily regarding COVID-19 and the proposed Long-Term Care at Home program. Campbell was not to participate on the 9/16 call.

- f. Advocacy (Sones)
 - i. Sones reported that CBAS and MSSP are safe for now, but there may be changes to these programs come January depending on the budget; the Long Term Care program at home has been retracted by the governor, but it may come back in the future.
 - ii. Sones informed the group that she has not been able to focus on advocacy and inquired if anyone from the commission would like to take over.
- g. County Code Amendment (Molesky)
 - i. Discussed in Item # 7

Next Regular Meeting: October 23, 2020, 1:00PM – 3:00PM