



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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RANDY MORRIS, DIRECTOR

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY GROUP November 2024 Meeting Minutes

DATE: November 6, 2024

TIME: Scheduled 3 pm – 5 pm

PLACE: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

HSAG Members Present

- Denise Hitzeman
- Serg Kagno
- Lisa Smith
- Jennifer Anderson-Ochoa
- Betsy Clark

Human Services Staff Present

- Randy Morris, HSD Director
- Adam Spickler, HSD Senior Analyst
- Heather Viola, HSD Executive Secretary

1. **Welcome and introductions** (upon opening of meeting at 3:05 pm)

2. **Director's Report**

- Reflections on national, state and local election results, with group reflecting on feelings about national results impacts within our community.
- Federal updates:
 - ✓ Explanation of "entitlements", including how these programs and their funding works federally, and how they are typically seen from the conservative perspective.
 - ✓ Discussion on impacts should the ACA be repealed, and the loss of health benefits for those vulnerable to losing preventative health care.
 - ✓ Reviewed risks to undocumented immigrants if targeted actions as indicated during the Trump campaign are to be carried out.

- ✓ Discussed impacts should federal waivers be withdrawn, that fund programs such as IHSS which allows Medicaid to pay wages per a waiver, and CalAIM which allows Medicaid to deliver certain preventative services in CA.
- State update provided with discussion on Prop 36 as an unfunded mandate, as well as SB 43 and the costs of implementing CARE Court.
- Local updates:
 - ✓ Advisory Group stipends—HSD commitment to sharing updates as they may be available.
 - ✓ IHSS—explanation of Board oversight of the “Public Authority” with brief discussion on developing alternative strategies for cultivating more IHSS care providers.”
 - ✓ CORE Investments update—Update provided on status, and reminder of the Nov 19th Board and Santa Cruz City Council hearings upcoming. Recognition and appreciation for HSAG members who participated as panel members; discussion of their experience - with a few comments of appreciation for what worked, as well a few recommended improvements going forward. HSAG members were also invited to participated in the spring 2025 CORE lessons learned process, pending BOS action at the Nov 19th hearing.
 - ✓ Discussion about the future possibility of bringing a PACE program to Santa Cruz County, to improve delivery of all-inclusive in-home and center-based care for people on Medi-Cal/Medicaid.

3. Advisory topics of interest for round table discussion

- Review of future meeting structure, agenda, recurrence & membership. Agreement among meeting participants that we should wait until 2025 to discuss structure, agenda setting, public engagement and membership.

4. Potential public engagement opportunities

- Members agreed we should wait until 2025 to begin planning public forum/engagement opportunities.

Next meeting: will be determined by members via scheduling poll.