



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, June 26, 2020
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM
Location: Remote Meeting – Teleconference
Present: Michael Molesky (Consumer, Chair), Lois Sones (Seniors Commission, Vice-Chair), Becky Taylor (Consumer), Foster Andersen (Consumer), Linda Campbell (Consumer), Patricia Fohrman (Provider)
Excused: None
Absent: Jozette Irgang (Consumer; Maria Arreola (Provider)
Guests: None
Staff: Juan Magaña (Public Authority Manager)

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting was called to order @ 1:04PM; a quorum was present.
2. Roll Call
 - a. Staff welcomed new IHSS Commissioner Patricia Fohrman, appointed as an at large representative of care providers.
3. Agenda Review
 - a. Agenda reviewed; no changes made
4. Review and Approval of *May 22, 2020 Minutes*
 - a. Reviewed minutes of the May 22, 2020 meeting
 - i. Taylor noted that on item # 9, sub bullet #4, was incorrect as she did not make that statement; Staff reviewed statement and recalled that Campbell was the person that made that statement; Campbell confirmed this and therefore the minutes were amended to reflect this correction
 - ii. No other changes made
 - b. Motion to approve amended minutes called by:
 - i. First/Second: Sones/Andersen
 - ii. Ayes: Campbell, Taylor, Fohrman, Molesky
 - iii. Noes: None
 - iv. Abstain: none
 - c. Motion carried unanimously
5. Oral Communications and Announcements:
 - a. No announcements made
6. Updates/Housekeeping
 - a. Reminders from the Chair
 - i. Molesky reminded participants to keep comments to each agenda item; if participants have individual problems that they are having, they should contact staff or their social worker after the meeting.

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- ii. Molesky has been in contact with social worker staff to inquire on what other issues are happening, particularly with remote medical appointments. Social workers provided some input, all of which is currently being discussed at these meetings.
 - b. Topics & Speakers
 - i. Staff reported that there are no speakers lined up at this time due to our current meeting structure. If the commission has a pressing need to have an organization or speaker attend one of the remote meetings, please let staff know.
 - c. Commission Vacancies
 - i. Current vacancies are:
 - 1. Consumer – 1
 - 2. Commission or Staff – 2
- 7. County Code/By-Laws Update
 - a. Staff provided the following update:
 - i. Staff has been working with county counsel to amend county code in order to grant more flexibility in filing its vacancies;
 - ii. County counsel has advised that this can be done, but they will need a subcommittee to be formed. County counsel will work with the subcommittee on the desired language. The goal would be to have the language finalized by August; the commission would then need to approve the new language at the August 28th meeting and then taken to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
 - iii. Taylor, Fohrman and Molesky volunteered for this subcommittee.
 - iv. Staff to provide the contact info of the subcommittee to county counsel.
- 8. IHSS Program Updates
 - a. No IHSS program updates provided
- 9. Public Authority Updates (Staff)
 - a. Staff provided the following Public Authority Updates
 - i. The Public Authority continues to provide all services remotely. Staff continue to provide registry lists to consumers via phone, email or printed.
 - ii. Essential Protective Gear – the Public Authority received facemasks from the state; facemasks are to be made available to IHSS consumers and providers upon request. IHSS consumers and/or providers can request facemasks at 18 West Beach in Watsonville or 1020 Emeline Ave in Santa Cruz. The Public Authority is also providing gloves and antibacterial hand sanitizer to IHSS providers upon request and while supplies last. All of these items are available on a once per month basis.
- 10. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Seniors Commission (Sones)
 - i. Sones provided the following information:
 - 1. The Seniors Commission met virtually; there was a fair amount of discussion about seniors and the needs of seniors during COVID-19; no action items taken regarding seniors needs, but more concern regarding increased isolation during the shelter in place.
 - a. Molesky mentioned that he would be contacting the care management team at the Alliance to see if they can increase their contact with Alliance members. Molesky also reminded everyone that behavioral health is a covered benefit under Medi-Cal.

2. Another concern is the fact that IHSS consumers are having a difficult time finding care providers, particularly family members.
 3. The state budget is looking much better – most IHSS related concerns have been fixed with the renegotiated budget. Removed the changes with IHSS; MSSP and CBAS are not affected at this time. Medi-Cal cuts are no longer being made.
 4. Medi-Cal Long Term Care at Home benefit – unclear if this new program is being developed to meet the needs of Medi-Cal recipients or if it is a political move. The goal is to keep people out of nursing homes; program is to start in 2021; stakeholder input from CBAS and MSSP is not being sought. The concept of this program is good, but the actuality is not certain. The commission needs to be on the lookout for this.
- b. Commission on Disabilities (Taylor)
 - i. Taylor informed that the Commission on Disabilities will be doing a screening and discussion of the Netflix movie “Crip Camp: A disability revolution” on Sunday July 26th at 2pm.
 - c. Legislative (Molesky)
 - i. No report provided
 - d. Website (Taylor)
 - i. Taylor mentioned that the IHSS eligibility information was not clear. Staff mentioned that this information would be relayed to IHSS for possible updates.
 - e. CICA Conference Calls (Campbell)
 - i. Campbell informed that the following information was discussed at the CICA call
 1. Privatizing protective care – CICA is concerned, but it does not appear that it will go far.
 2. Essential Protective Gear is available to consumers and providers
 3. IHSS reassessments that were waived at the start of shelter in place will need to be completed by social workers by end of year
 4. CICA annual meeting will be happening in the last 20 minutes of the regular meeting.
 - f. Advocacy (Sones)
 - i. Molesky informed that Governor Newsome is working on a Health Care for One program and it is being fast tracked just like the Long-Term Care at Home benefit. These new programs need to be monitored by the commission as they will impact IHSS consumers.
 - ii. Sones – no additional update provided (all was covered in her Seniors report).

Meeting adjourned at 1:53PM

Next Regular Meeting: August 28, 2020, 1:00PM – 3:00PM