



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, January 22, 2021
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), Patricia Fohrman (Provider)
Excused: Maria Arreola (Provider)
Absent: None
Guests: Alicia Morales (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 1:02pm
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
 - a. Agenda reviewed; no changes made
4. Review and Approval of *November 20, 2020 Minutes*
 - a. Reviewed minutes of the November 20, 2020 meeting; no changes made
 - b. Motion to approve amended minutes called by:
 - i. First/Second: Campbell/Sones
 - ii. Ayes: Fohrman, Irgang, Molesky, Taylor, Andersen
 - iii. Noes: None
 - iv. Abstain: None
 - c. Motion carried
5. Oral Communications and Announcements:
 - a. Alicia Morales, Division Director for the Adult and Long-Term Care services Division introduced herself and provided a brief bio on her background to the commission.
6. Updates/Housekeeping
 - a. Reminders from the Chair
 - i. Molesky provided the following reminders:
 1. Due to COVID-19, the commission will continue to meet remotely until it is safe to resume in-person meetings.
 2. The commission must continue to focus on caregivers and their safety; furthermore, people must have the access to the information they need.
 - b. Topics & Speakers

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.

- i. This item was not discussed
 - c. Commission Vacancies
 - i. This item was not discussed
- 7. Annual Attendance Report
 - a. Staff reported that annual attendance report is due to the Board of Supervisors by 1/31/2021; the report was included in the commissioner's meeting materials and staff requested that the commission review and approve if no changes are necessary.
 - b. Sones inquired on how many of the four cancelled meetings in 2020 were due to lack of a quorum.
 - i. Staff reported that the cancellations were mostly due to the pandemic.
 - ii. Molesky also included that one of the cancellations was due to the commission meeting falling on a county furlough day and there would be no staff to attend the meeting.
 - c. A motion to approve the 2020 Annual Attendance Report was called by:
 - i. First/Second: Sones/Fohrman
 - ii. Ayes: Campbell, Irgang, Molesky, Taylor, Andersen
 - iii. Noes: None
 - iv. Abstain: None
 - d. Motion carried
- 8. Caregiver Discussion
 - a. Molesky invited the group to bring up any areas of concerns regarding caregivers.
 - i. Andersen indicated that his main concerns were related to his care being impacted due to his caregivers having to quarantine because they were exposed while working with other IHSS recipients. Andersen also wanted to know what the timeline was to get IHSS caregivers vaccinated?
 - ii. Campbell inquired on how caregivers are being notified about when and where they can get the vaccine?
 - iii. Irgang reported that her caregiver was able to get the vaccine because the caregiver also worked at a behavioral health clinic, but wanted to know when would other caregivers get the vaccine?
 - iv. Taylor reported that she was aware that a caregiver that she knows received a call to get the vaccine.
 - v. Fohrman:
 - 1. Informed the group that she had been notified by four different groups regarding the vaccine, but she wanted to get more info on the vaccine before she took it. Fohrman indicated a few weeks to get the info she needed.
 - 2. Has received concerns from other IHSS caregivers who are at risk of losing their health insurance when they are not able to meet the minimum number of hours due to COVID.
 - vi. Sones echoed all of the concerns from the commissioners. She also provided the following info:
 - 1. Individuals are bringing in the disease into the homes of other people.
 - 2. There is a need for lots of education regarding the vaccine and the importance of the second dose.
 - 3. There is a lot of misinformation out there and we need to get good information to people.

4. Regarding insurance, the commission should take this on and ask the union to address this.
5. Besides the county, there are private health offices that have vaccines and they will soon begin vaccinating.
- vii. Molesky provided the following:
 1. The County Health Department website and the State COVID website has a lot of information regarding the vaccine. Molesky asked staff to send the links to the commissioners for these websites.
 2. The Alliance medical director is planning an in-depth outreach for at risk individuals; he will be relaying the commission's concerns to the Alliance.
 3. Recruitment for providers is difficult in these times.
 4. Would like to see the number of requests for providers that are received and discussed at the next commission meeting.
 5. Given the shortage of providers, it may be a good time to bring in a dual-mode system to our county.
 6. Requested that staff reach out to the Senior's Council so they can send any concerns they may have regarding the Master Plan on Aging.
- viii. Staff provided the following information regarding vaccines for IHSS caregivers:
 1. Last week, IHSS caregivers were given the green light to receive the COVID-19 vaccine
 2. Sutter healthcare provided 300 slots to IHSS caregivers and asked the county to assist in reaching out to them.
 3. The Public Authority reached out to all IHSS caregivers in Santa Cruz County via email and robo-call letting them know that they were now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and needed to call our pre-registration line if they were interested in receiving it.
 4. The Public Authority set up a hotline for IHSS caregivers to call and pre-register for the vaccine. The hotline number is 454-5291.
 5. The 300 slots were quickly filled up and the information was forwarded to Sutter so they could schedule and administer the vaccine.
 6. In addition to the 300 initial names, there have been at least 700 additional caregivers who expressed interest in the vaccine; as slots open up with various vaccine administrators, the team will forward the information so they caregivers can be scheduled to receive their vaccine.

9. IHSS Program Updates

- a. Aragon provided the following IHSS Program Updates:
 - i. The department has been authorized to fill a vacant Social Worker Supervisor position as well as two extra help Social Workers who will be assisting the IHSS team with reassessments.
 - ii. The Teen Kitchen grant was completed on 12/31/2020; in sum, they were able to serve over 5500 meals to IHSS recipients.

10. Public Authority Updates

- a. Staff reported that Emergency Back-Up Registry has seen an increase in referrals for consumers who have temporarily lost their IHSS caregiver due to COVID.

11. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Seniors Commission (Sones)
 - i. No report given
- b. Commission on Disabilities (Taylor)
 - i. No report given
- c. Legislative (Molesky)
 - i. Molesky inquired if the Golden State Stimulus benefit would be available to IHSS recipients? Staff reported that it did not appear so as they benefit would only be for individuals who qualified for the California Earned Income Tax Credit.
- d. Website (Taylor)
 - i. No report out
- e. CICA Conference Calls (Campbell)
 - i. Campbell reported she was not able to call in to the meeting this month but has requested the minutes and will forward them once she gets them.
- f. Advocacy (Sones)
 - i. Reminder to all commissioners that advocacy is what the commission is tasked to do.
- g. County Code Amendment (Molesky)
 - i. Molesky reported that he had not seen the most recent language option for the county code amendment; stated he will wait for it to arrive so he can review and then add this item to the February meeting so the commission can review, discuss and vote on the language.

Meeting adjourned at 2:12PM

Next Regular Meeting: February 26, 2021, 1:00PM – 3:00PM