



County of Santa Cruz

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY

500 Westridge Drive, Watsonville, CA; P.O. Box 1300, Santa Cruz, CA 95061
(831) 454-4036 FAX: (831) 763-8906

IHSS Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, August 15, 2025
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM
Location: 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 206. Santa Cruz, CA
Present: Lois Sones (Seniors Commission), Maria Arreola (Provider), Stephanie Auld (Consumer), Charlie Walker (Provider)
Excused: Foster Anderson (Consumer)
Staff: Juan Magana (Staff), Julie Gabriel (Staff), Jessica Cirksena (Presenter), Ann Jackson (Assistant County Counsel)

Agenda

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 1:04PM; a quorum was present
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Public Comment
5. Consent Agenda
 - a. Meeting Minutes
 - i. April 25, 2025
 - ii. June 27, 2025
 - b. Commission Vacancies
 - i. Four (4) – Consumer Representatives (A)
 - ii. Two (2) – Representative of Advocate Organization or Representative of Commission on Disabilities (C)
 - c. Motion to approve consent agenda
 - i. First/Second: Auld/Arreola
 - ii. Ayes: Sones, Arreola, Auld, Walker
 - iii. Noes: None
 - iv. Abstain: None
 - d. Motion passed unanimously
6. Guest Speaker: Jessica Cirksena – IHSS Overview
 - a. Presentation on IHSS, see attached presentation slides for information covered.
7. Regular Agenda – Action Items
 - a. Election of Officers:

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. Chair

1. Staff reported that Commissioner Andersen and Sones both expressed interested in taking on the role of chair.
2. The commission voted, all votes in favor of Sones being the chair for the commission.
3. Staff to reach out to Andersen to inform and inquire if he would be interested in the vice-chair seat.

ii. Vice-Chair:

1. No nominations for vice-chair
2. Motion to move this item to September meeting called by:
 - a. First/Second: Auld/Walker
 - b. Ayes: Sones, Arreola, Auld, Walker
 - c. Noes: None
 - d. Abstain: None
3. Motion passed unanimously

b. Recruitment Strategies: IHSS Advisory Commission Vacancies

- i. Staff informed that he is working with HSD's Public Information Officer to develop some recruitment materials for the commission vacancies
 1. The commission requested to review/approve them before they are published.
- ii. Sones to draft a recruitment flyer, will send to staff so it can be forwarded to the commission for feedback prior to the September meeting.

8. Regular Agenda – Information Items

a. Information Sharing

i. Announcements

1. No announcements made.

ii. Topics & Speakers

1. Auld suggested having a symposium of private care agencies to talk to IHSS recipients on how they retained their workforce.
 - a. Staff suggested that this may not be useful for IHSS recipients as IHSS will never be competitive with private care agencies. IHSS wages are set by the county at negotiations, private care agencies can pay more and require certain experience before hiring a care provider – IHSS does not do this.

b. Commission Budget

- i. Staff referenced information included in meeting packet.

c. Registry Data

- i. Staff referenced information included in meeting packet.

- d. IHSS Consumers
 - i. No comments
- e. IHSS Providers
 - i. No comments
- f. IHSS Program and Public Authority Updates
 - i. Jessica Cirksena provided the following updates:
 - 1. CA state budget from July- financial penalties for late assessments, with higher level of care- state no longer covers penalties. 16% growth of program, 50% OA staff vacancy, 30% SW on leave, behind on reassessments. Program must focus on reassessments.
 - 2. Telehealth reassessments for some clients, ready for live rollout.
 - 3. Provider incentives; Safeway gift cards. Allocated funding quarterly raffle, in hard to service areas.

9. Report Outs

- a. Legislative
 - i. No report out; Sones state there is a need for someone to take on legislation – to be discussed at next meeting
- b. CICA Conference Calls
 - i. Auld reported on AB283 – Statewide Collective Bargaining - in approval process higher wages to effect poorer counties more (negotiations covering all CA counties). Prob won't pass.
- c. Seniors Commission
 - i. No mtg in July. Senior Resource Fair in Capitola.

10. Future Agenda Items:

- a. Identify a commission member to monitor relevant legislative updates
- b. Commission recruitment material review/approval
- c. Public participation – IHSS Advisory Commission
- d. Central Coast Alliance complaints
- e. Goals, priorities and commission re-set
- f. Website review

11. Correspondence

- a. None

12. Adjournment:

- a. Meeting adjourned at 2:58pm

Next Regular Meeting: September 26, 2025, 1:00PM – 3:00PM @ 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 206, Santa Cruz

Approved by Commission on 10/24/2025; Submitted to Board of Supervisors on 10/27/2025

Understanding In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

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Topics for Today

- What is IHSS?
- Who is eligible?
- Understanding the different roles
- Q & A

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Overview of IHSS

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What is IHSS?

- **Statewide program that provides home care services to help seniors and people with disabilities remain in their own homes**
- **Provides basic services to individuals who cannot safely perform the tasks themselves**
- **Administered by each County under the direction of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS)**
- **Alternative to out-of-home placement**
- **Funded through: Federal, State, and County dollars**

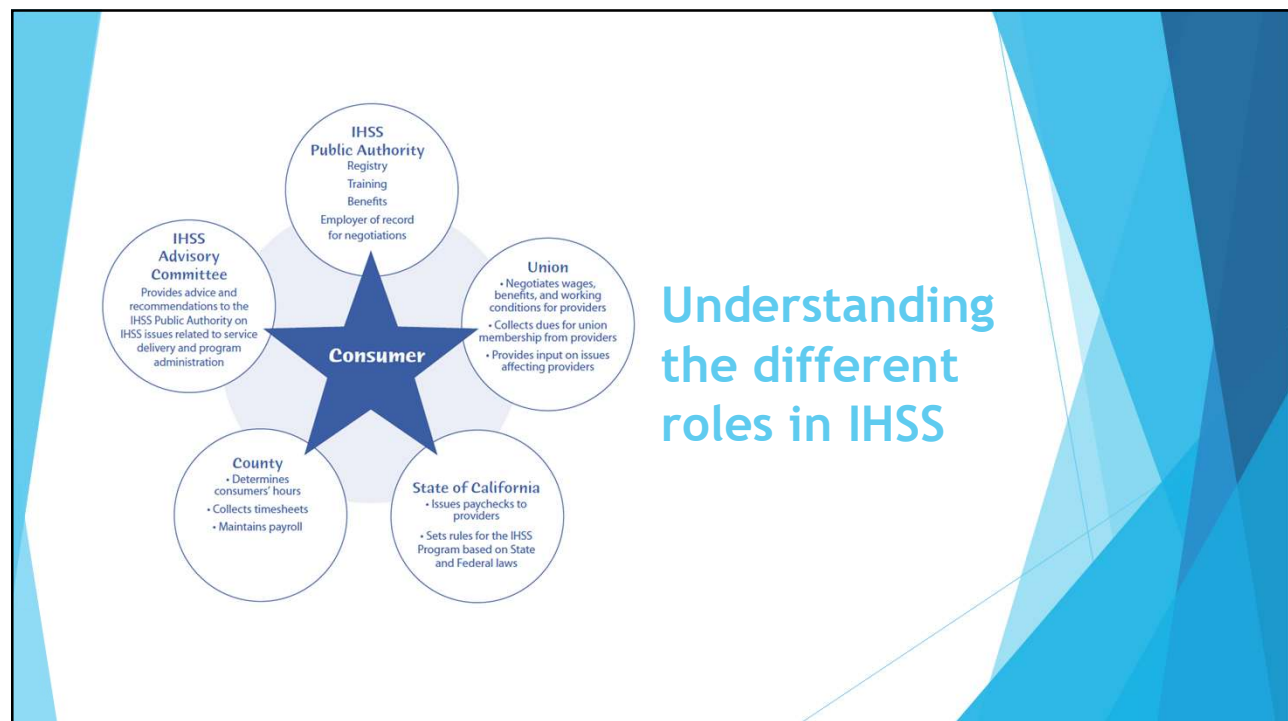
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Who is eligible for IHSS?

Any California resident is eligible for IHSS if they:

- ❑ Are blind, disabled, or 65 years of age or older
- ❑ Are SSI/SSP or Medi-Cal eligible
- ❑ Are living in a home or apartment (not including a hospital, nursing home, assisted living, or licensed care facility)
- ❑ Cannot live safely at home without assistance
- ❑ Obtain a health care certification (SOC 873) from a licensed health care professional indicating

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Role: State of California



Oversees IHSS through the **California Department of Social Services (CDSS)**



Sets rules for IHSS program regulations and issues policy guidance based on State and Federal laws



Issues paychecks to providers



Operates the Electronic Services Portal (ESP) and Telephonic Timesheet System (TTS)

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Role: County



Eligibility determination and renewals (needs assessments during intake and reassessments)



Conducts home visits and makes referrals



Links providers to recipients and issues timesheets



Coordinates with Public Authority to maintain provider registry and offer trainings

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Role: Recipient

 Employer of provider for purposes of screening, hiring, supervising, training, and firing providers

 Maintains record of hours worked by providers, verifies, and approves provider timesheets

 Provides required information to Social Worker to make eligibility determinations and reports any changes in household, address, or condition

 Ensures standards of work scheduling and working conditions for providers

 Inform providers of wage rate, coverage by Workers Comp, Unemployment, and SDI

 Inform providers of authorized services and authorized time given

For more info, see SOC 332 (IHSS Recipient/Employer Responsibility Checklist)

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Role: Public Authority

 Manages enrollment of IHSS providers

 Screens, interviews, and makes determinations on registry applicants

 Maintains provider registry and helps match recipients and registry providers based on skills and availability of caregivers

 Provides free and optional training to IHSS providers

 Assists recipients and providers with problem solving in employment relationship

 Employer of record for purposes of collective bargaining, wages, and benefits

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Role: Union (SEIU 2015)



Negotiates wages, benefits, and working conditions for providers



Collects dues for union membership from providers



Provides input on issues affecting providers

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Role: IHSS Advisory Commission



Provide advice and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on IHSS issues related to service delivery and program administration



Review pending State and Federal legislation that may impact the IHSS program, consumers, and/or providers and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors



Stay informed and educated on IHSS and Public Authority issues



Provide a forum for consumers, providers, advocates, and other interested parties to participate in IHSS policy and program development

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