



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

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

IHSS Advisory Commission

Date: Friday, October 23, 2026

Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM

Location: 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 207. Santa Cruz, CA

Virtual (Public only):

Microsoft Teams Link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/224317108153835?p=6ny9cBxhL5SvVbRGr8>

Meeting ID: 224 317 108 153 835 Passcode: oN6b5yV6

Telephone [+1 831-454-2222](tel:+18314542222) Phone conference ID: 720 404 055#

This meeting is being made available to the public via Microsoft Teams as a courtesy and is being recorded. Please be advised, if remote technology does not work, the in-person meeting will continue. In addition, the recording will be posted to the commission's website as part of the public record.

Agenda

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

2. **Public Comment:** *Anyone wishing to address the commission on any item within the jurisdiction of the Commission and not listed on the agenda may do so at this time. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes in duration.*

3. Approval of September 25, 2026, Meeting Minutes Page 3

4. Consent Agenda

- Commission Vacancies
 - i. Two (2) – Consumer Representatives (A)
 - ii. One (1) – Provider (B)
 - iii. One (1) – Representative of Advocate Organization

5. IHSS General Operations Report

- IHSS Program and Public Authority Updates

6. Regular Agenda – Action Items

- Project Scout Online Presentation - Eduardo Santana
- Measure E Discussion - Commissioner Molina
- Strategic Planning: IHSS Advisory Commission Vision, Goals, and Potential Recommendations to the Board of Supervisor – Chair Sones

7. Regular Agenda – Information Items

- Information Sharing

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.

- IHSS Consumers
- IHSS Providers
- Commission Budget Page 8
- Registry Data Page 9

8. Report Outs

- Legislative – (Gutiérrez Báez)
- CICA Conference Calls – Volunteer Needed.
- Seniors Commission (Sones)
- Commissions on Disabilities (Molina)

9. Future Agenda Items

- Public Authority presentation scheduled for November 20, 2026, Advisory meeting

10. Correspondence

11. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: November 20, 2026, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM @ 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 207, Santa Cruz.



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IHSS Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

DATE: Friday, September 25, 2026
TIME: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
LOCATION 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 207. Santa Cruz, CA
PRESENT: Lois Sones (Chair, Seniors Commission), Foster Anderson (Consumer),
Stephanie Auld (Consumer), Maria Arreola (Provider), David Molina
(Disabilities, Commission), Brenda Gutierrez-Baeza (Consumer), Sacha Defoy
(Consumer)
EXCUSED: None
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Bertha Z. Paredez (Staff), Julie Gabriel (Staff)
GUEST: Kathybelle Barlow Public

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

- Meeting was called to order at 1:02pm. A quorum was present.
- Commissioner Gutierrez Baeza participating remotely under SB 707 just-cause provision. Commissioner Defoy participates remotely pursuant to SB707 permanent remote accommodation provisions.

2. Public Comment:

- One member of the Public commented regarding interest in serving in the Advisory Commission.

3. Approval of August 28, 2026, Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve August 28, 2026, Meeting Minutes
- First/Second: Auld/Andersen
- Motion approved unanimously

4. Consent Agenda

- Current Commission Vacancies
 - i. Two (2) – Consumer Representatives (A)
 - ii. One (1) – Provider (B)
 - iii. One (1) – Representative of Advocate Organization

5. IHSS General Operations Report

- IHSS Program and Public Authority

- No updates from Staff.

6. Regular Agenda – Action Items

- Strategic Planning: IHSS Advisory Commission Vision, Goals, and Potential Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
 - Commissioners shared ideas during strategic planning discussion. Chair Sones summarized the discussion and presented potential commission vision statements. See attachments.
 - I. Attachment A: Strategic Planning Notes
 - II. Attachment B: Proposed Vision Statement

7. Regular Agenda- Information Items

- Announcements
 - None.
- Commission Budget
- Registry Data
 - September 2026 Registry Report. Presented the corrected August 2026 Registry Report
- IHSS Consumers
- IHSS Providers
 - Commissioners expressed concerns about navigating the process to become IHSS providers. Commissioners agreed to explore the process before the Public Authority Presentation scheduled for November 20.

9. Report Outs

- Legislative – Gutierrez Baeza - No Report.
- CICA Conference Calls - Volunteer Needed.
- Seniors Commission- Sones - Waiting for clear Master Plan for Aging (MPA) reports from County.
- Commissions on Disabilities (Molina) – No meeting, quorum not met.

10. Future Agenda Items

- Project Scout Online Presentation by Eduardo Santana
- Measure E Presentation by Commissioner Molina.
- Public Authority Presentation scheduled for November 20, 2026.

11. Correspondence- No report.

12. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 2:46 pm

Next Regular Meeting: October 23, 2026, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM @ 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 207, Santa Cruz.

Meeting Minutes by, Bertha Z. Paredez, Staff to IHSS Advisory Commission.

DRAFT

Why Commissioners are here:

Saw need and wanted to help
Wanted to help other parents in similar situations
Participate in solving problems
Protect income sources for recipients
Make a difference
Help streamline the system
Identify and work on issues

Vision Concepts

- competitive salaries for providers (living wage + benefits)
 - Transitional support for families
 - All recipients receive the full hours of IHSS for which they are approved
 - Commission has all the information and data needed
 - Enough IHSS providers in the County (easily available and accessible)
 - Assistance is provided, when needed, in finding providers
 - Good emergency coverage is available
 - Good training is provided for providers and consumers
 - Adequate support for those who are not able to manage their employer responsibilities
-
- Ongoing education for commissioners
 - Ongoing information for commissioners
 - Provide caregiver certification through training provider

Potential IHSS Commission Vision Statement

We envision a county where IHSS consumers and their families can depend on a sustainable, responsive, and accessible care system: enough qualified providers to meet community needs, fair wages and benefits for providers, timely assistance in finding and retaining care, strong training and emergency supports, and the information and resources necessary to continuously improve the system.

Commissioners were closely aligned about being here to help improve the system, make a difference, and identify and work together on IHSS systemic issues.

How can the Commission facilitate/advocate/support meeting this vision?

Specific steps we can take - brainstorm.

- Meet with Public Authority - next month

 - Questions for them:

 - How can we get the information we need to make informed recommendations?

- Advocate for robust education for providers

 - Caregiver certification through training provider

IHSS ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL BUDGET FY2026-27	BUDGET	\$3,490.00
	USED	\$1225.00
	BALANCE	\$2,665.00

INVOICE DATE	EXPENSE	AMOUNT	PAYMENT DATE
9/28/2026	Q1 STIPENDS	\$450.00	10/2/2026
8/31/2026	Q1 STIPENDS	\$375.00	9/3/2026
6/30/2026	Q4 STIPENDS	\$450.00	7/2/2026

PROVIDER REGISTRY

