



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, May 24, 2024
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM
Location: 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 206. Santa Cruz, CA

The use of facemasks is recommended for all attendees of the IHSS Advisory Commission meeting

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
 - a. Welcome new commissioner – Stephanie Auld – Representative of Relative of Consumer
3. Agenda Review
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - i. April 26, 2024, Meeting.....Page 3.
 - b. Commission Vacancies
 - i. One (1) – Consumer Representative
5. Oral Communications: *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.*
6. Regular Agenda – Action Items
 - a. Letter of Opposition: Elimination of Back-Up Provider System.....Page 8.
 - b. Consideration of CICA Membership
7. Guest Speaker: Janie Whiteford, California IHSS Consumer Alliance
8. Regular Agenda – Information Items
 - a. Information Sharing
 - i. Announcements
 - ii. Topics & Speakers
 - b. IHSS Consumers
 - c. IHSS Providers

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.

- d. SEIU 2015
- e. IHSS Program and Public Authority Updates

9. Report Outs

- a. Legislative
- b. CICA Conference Calls
- c. Commission on Disabilities
- d. Seniors Commission

10. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: June 28, 2024, 1:00PM – 3:00PM @ 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 206, Santa Cruz, CA



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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, April 26, 2024
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM
Location: 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 206. Santa Cruz, CA
Present: Michael Molesky (Consumer, Chair), Lois Sones (Seniors Commission, Vice-Chair), Christine Keibert-Boss (Consumer), Foster Andersen (Consumer), Becky Taylor (Commission on Disability), Linda Campbell (Consumer) Maria Arreola (Provider), Patricia Fohrman (Provider)
Excused: Jozette Irgang (Consumer)
Absent: None
Guests: Julie Gabriel (Division Secretary, ALTC), Jasmine Marquardt (Senior Network Services), Alicia Morales (ALTC Division Director), Elizabeth Byrd (ALTC Sr. Analyst), Stephanie Auld (Public), Anna Cerna, (PA SW Supervisor), Joel Campos (Lead organizer, SEIU)
Staff: Juan Magaña (Staff)

Agenda

1. Call to Order
 - a. A meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM; a quorum was present.
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
 - a. Agenda reviewed; no changes were made.
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - i. March 22, 2024, Meeting
 - b. Commission Vacancies
 - i. One (1) – Consumer Representative
 - ii. One (1) – Representative of Advocate Organization- Stephanie submitted app.
 - c. Motion to approve consent agenda called by:
 - i. First/Second: Sones/Keibert-Boss
 - ii. Ayes: Molesky, Sones, Kiebert-Boss, Andersen, Taylor, Campbell, Arreola, Fohrman
 - iii. Nays: None
 - iv. Abstain: None
 - v. Absent: Irgang

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d. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Oral Communications and Announcements:

- a. Molesky reported on the upcoming May 5 “Wings for Life”- Worldwide Race, fundraiser for spinal cord injury and awareness.
- b. Keibert-Boss reported on the fair at Monterey Bay Horsemanship & Therapeutic Center on April 21, 100’s in attendance.
- c. Anderson reported on upcoming May 11, “Day in the Park”, featuring bands, food, etc.
- d. Joel Campos (SEIU Representative) reported on IHSS Provider’s contract ends June 30. The 2 priorities are protection of the program and living wage increases. They will keep us informed about upcoming meetings.

6. Regular Agenda – Action Items

a. Election of Officers

i. Chair

- 1. Staff reported that Christine Kiebert-Boss was nominated to be the Chair for the IHSS Advisory Commission; Kiebert Boss confirmed that she accepted the nomination.
- 2. Motion to approve the nomination of Christine Keibert-Boss as Chair for the IHSS Advisory Commission was called by:
 - A. First/Second: Sones/Arreola
 - B. Ayes: Molesky, Sones, Kiebert-Boss, Andersen, Taylor, Campbell, Arreola, Fohrman
 - C. Nays: None
 - D. Abstain: None
 - E. Absent: Irgang
- 3. Motion carried unanimously.

ii. Vice-Chair

- 1. Staff reported Becky Taylor was nominated to be the Vice-Chair for the IHSS Advisory Commission; Taylor confirmed that she accepted the nomination.
- 2. Motion to approve nomination of Becky Taylor as Vice-Chair was called by:
 - A. First/Second Campbell/Fohrman
 - B. Ayes: Molesky, Sones, Kiebert-Boss, Andersen, Taylor, Campbell, Arreola, Fohrman
 - C. Nays: None
 - D. Abstain: None
 - E. Absent: Irgang
- 3. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Approval of IHSS Advisory Commission Meeting Schedule: May 2024 – April 2025

- i. Staff reported that as part of the recent changes to section 2.38 of county code, all commissions are to approve their meeting schedule each year in the month of April. A copy of the May 2024 – April 2025 meeting schedule was included in the meeting packet. Staff reminded the commission that for now, the meeting location for the IHSS Advisory Commission was set to 1400 Emeline Ave, but per the commission's vote in February, the commission will revisit the location of its meetings at the June 2024 commission meeting.
- ii. Motion to approve IHSS Advisory Commission Meeting Schedule for May 2024 – April 2025 was called by:
 - 1. First/Second: Taylor/Fohrman
 - 2. Ayes: Molesky, Sones, Kiebert-Boss, Andersen, Taylor, Campbell, Arreola, Fohrman
 - 3. Nays: None
 - 4. Abstain: None
 - 5. Absent: Irgang
- iii. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Guest Speakers:

a. Alicia Morales, Division Director, Adult and Long-Term Care

- i. Morales provided a brief intro about herself: has been working in the Aging field for almost 30 years: Adult Protective Services in Los Angeles County, Alameda County, and has been with Santa Cruz County for the past 4 years. She has served on the Executive Board for Public Guardians for 7yrs and was president at one time. This is our time, by exec order on MPA/council member integrate elder justice system, make structural changes. Elder justice, APS, LTC, PGO, SNS including disabilities. Morales provided info on the following topics:
 - 1. Provider recruitment – Morales indicated that this is a challenge in every county. On average, statewide 70% of providers are family members; in Santa Cruz County, only 56% of providers are family members. This makes provider recruitment much harder. The registry has seen increase in new providers of 20%. This was due to internal changes, more employees, and strengthening the Public Authority. Anna Cerna was recently hired as the new Public Authority Social Work Supervisor which will including provider recruitment. At the State level, there was legislation introduced last year to allow undocumented family members to be eligible to be providers. This bill has been reintroduced this year. Non-family members would be the next step.
 - 2. Contract mode, Morales indicated that only San Francisco County has this mode, and it may not happen locally due to its high cost. There is an ask for funding from the state and we are working with managed care (Alliance and Kaiser) to establish relationships with local Managed Care Plans via Memorandums of Understandings with IHSS, among others. There is a strong focus on referrals for Enhanced Care Management services through Senior Network Services, Community Bridges and other community-based

organizations. At the regional level, the Bay Area Social Services Consortium is offering a stipend for Master of Social Work training focusing on older adults, like the title 4E Waiver for Family and Children Services.

3. Master Plan for Aging, concerned with funding. No planned cuts to adult services, but no additional funding. The Master Plan for Aging supports policies that promote healthy aging. In Santa Cruz County, 1 in 3 residents will be over age 65 by 2030. The Older American's act is being reviewed.

- A. Auld (public) mentioned that she can't get a provider. There is no quality control, consumers are the QA as an employer. Do you audit IHSS program. Is it successful?

- i. Morales responded that the IHSS program came from disability movement in Berkley. Care from the community will care for the community. 90% of providers are known by the individual. Public Authority is a back-up plan, they recruit providers and maintains the registry.

- b. Elizabeth Byrd, Sr. Human Services Analyst, Adult and Long-Term Care

- i. Elizabeth Byrd reported that Santa Cruz County is working on the Master Plan for Aging. In June 2023, the Board of Supervisors and the American Association of Retired Persons recognized Santa Cruz County as age friendly. An age friendly community is one where its residents can age in place, break down isolation, and allow for aging in an empowered way. A governance group was formed which comprised of elected officials. A county Needs Assessment survey was initiated by ALTC. The goal was to have 1K respondents; we received 2500 online survey responses alone. We recognize that not all pops were represented, so we are looking at how to address the needs of those who didn't answer. Data is a starting point, who's missing? Working with Clarity, who uses focus groups to inform next steps. Includes other data sets, surveys, etc. Dientes, CSOA, US Census.

8. Regular Agenda – Information Items

- a. Updates/Housekeeping

- i. Reminders from the Chair
 1. None provided
 - ii. Topics & Speakers
 1. Staff reported there are no guest speakers lined up for May. Please contact staff if you have a guest speaker in mind.

- b. IHSS Providers

- i. Arreola reported she continues to get calls from providers having trouble with the check in/check out process.
 1. Staff advised that Providers will be paid regardless, they should continue working with the system.

c. IHSS Program and Public Authority Updates

- i. Staff reported that all Human Services Department staff at 18 West Beach Street in Watsonville will be moving to 500 Westridge Drive in Watsonville. The last day of lobby operations will be 5/17; effective 5/20 500 Westridge will be open. There is no planned interruption for provider supply pick up.
- ii. Staff introduced Anna Cerna Social Work Supervisor with Public Authority.

9. Report Outs

a. Legislative

- i. No report out.

b. CICA Conference Calls

- i. Kiebert-Boss reported this month's meeting was very interesting, she will send notes to staff to share.

c. Website/Technology

- i. No report out.

d. Commission on Disabilities

- i. Taylor reported they still need 1 more member to hold a meeting; website has not been updated.

e. Seniors Commission

- i. No report out.

10. Meeting adjourned at 2:59pm by Christine Keibert-Boss, new Chair.

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IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION

500 Westridge Drive, Watsonville, CA 95076
P.O. Box 1300, Santa Cruz, CA 95061
(831) 454-4036 FAX: (831) 763-8906
CHRISTINE KIEBERT-BOSS, CHAIR

May 24, 2024

Honorable Dr. Corey Jackson, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2
1021 O Street, Suite 6120
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Caroline Menjivar, Chair
Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Sub. No. 3
1021 O Street, Suite 6720
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: IHSS Back-Up Provider System (BUPS) Funding Elimination - OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Jackson and Senator Menjivar:

The County of Santa Cruz In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Advisory Commission is writing to express our concern and opposition for the Governor's May Revise elimination of the Back-Up Provider System (BUPS) Funding. The IHSS program provides vital services to over 3,100 older adults and individuals with disabilities in Santa Cruz County to help them remain safely in their own homes by receiving care from family, friends, or qualified caregiver(s) from the County of Santa Cruz Public Authority Registry. The BUPS program provides short term IHSS from back-up providers to recipients because their regular providers are unavailable or because the recipient is transitioning to home-based care and does not yet have an identified provider. Additionally, back-up providers receive a \$2.00 per hour wage differential.

Over the last few years an increased need for back-up providers was recognized and permanently funded by the Administration due to the increased need for caregiving services when an IHSS consumer's regular provider was suddenly unavailable due to illness or emergency. While we understand that there is a serious budget deficit, the demand for this service will not go away and the Public Authority will still receive urgent calls for back-up providers. This places a significant strain on the IHSS program, our Public Authority, and leaves recipients in a vulnerable and potentially life-threatening condition.

As outlined and projected in the Master Plan on Aging, the demand for qualified caregivers continues to grow as well as the need for back-up providers. This service not only saves lives, but it saves the state from more costly alternatives such as IHSS consumers needing hospitalization or urgent care.

We appreciate the continued support in the proposed FY 24-25 budget for IHSS Public Authority Administrative Funding and ask that you continue to fund the IHSS BUPS program which will ultimately save the state funding.

Sincerely,

Christine Kiebert-Boss
Chair, IHSS Advisory Commission, County of Santa Cruz

cc: The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
The Honorable Scott Wiener, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Honorable Members and Staff, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2
Honorable Members and Staff, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee 3
Chris Woods, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Mareva Brown, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Jason Sisney, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
Kelsy Castillo, Office of the Speaker of the Assembly
Kirk Feely, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Joe Shinstock, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Kim Johnson, California Department of Social Services
Richard Figueroa, Office of the Governor
Angela Pontes, Office of the Governor
Kris Cook, Department of Finance
California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS
California State Association of Counties
County Welfare Directors Association of California