



# 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

### SPECIAL MEETING

### Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022  
Time: 1:00PM to 2:00PM  
Present: Michael Molesky (Consumer, Chair), Lois Sones (Seniors Commission, Vice-Chair), Becky Taylor (Consumer), Linda Campbell (Consumer), Patricia Fohrman (Provider), Maria Arreola (Provider)  
Excused: Foster Andersen (Consumer), Jozett Irgang (Consumer),  
Absent: None  
Guests: Antonio Rivas (Mental Health Advisory Board)  
Staff: Juan Magaña (IHSS Public Authority)

### Special Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
  - a. Meeting was called to order at 1:03PM
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
  - a. No changes made to agenda
4. Oral Communications and Announcements
  - a. No oral communications or announcements were made
5. Special Meeting Agenda – Action Items
  - a. Election of Officers
    - i. Staff reminded the commission that per county code and commission by-laws, the election of officers is to occur annually at the April commission meeting. Any member of the commission can self-nominate themselves or nominate a member of the commission to serve as either Chair or Vice-Chair.
    - ii. A motion was called to nominate Michael Molesky as Chair and Lois Sones as Vice Chair.
      1. First/Second: Campbell/Taylor
      2. Ayes: Molesky, Sones, Taylor, Campbell, Arreola, Fohrman
      3. Noes: None
      4. Abstain: None

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.

- iii. Motion carried unanimously
- b. Request for Letter of Support to Increase Advisory Committee Funding
  - i. Staff reported that the commission received a request from the California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA) to support their ask to increase the funding for advisory committees to \$56,000. Staff received a copy of the letter that was sent by Assemblymember Ask Karla to Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula and Assemblymember Phil Ting and the sample letter to be used if the commission agrees to support this request. A copy of both letters was included in the meeting packet.
  - ii. The commission discussed the pros and cons of this ask
    - 1. Sones indicated that after reviewing both letters and seeing how the increased in funding could help the commission, she was in support of this request.
    - 2. Fohrman indicated that she was unclear on the increase in funding would be used. Stated that our commission has been able to operate well with the current funding that the commission receives.
    - 3. Molesky provided examples of how the additional funding could be used, such as trainings for caregivers or re-establishing the Caring Community Summit that brought together various community organizations to discuss issues around caregiving.
  - iii. Public Comment - Antonio Rivas from the Mental Health Advisory Board stated that he was in support of this ask. He agreed that having a summit that brought together various commissions and advisory councils so they can come up with a general plan of what is needed to solve all the problems that we face and present that to the Board of Supervisors.
  - iv. A motion was called to support both letters supporting the increase in funding to advisory committees.
    - 1. First/Second: Sones/Campbell
    - 2. Ayes: Molesky, Sones, Taylor, Campbell, Arreola
    - 3. Noes: Fohrman
    - 4. Abstain: None
  - v. Motion carried.
- 6. Adjournment
  - a. Meeting adjourned at 1:32PM

**Next Regular Meeting:** May 27, 2022, 1:00PM – 3:00PM



# County of Santa Cruz

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## IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION

18 W. Beach Street, Watsonville, CA 95076  
P.O. Box 1300, Santa Cruz, CA 95061  
(831) 454-4036 FAX: (831) 763-8906  
MICHAEL MOLESKY, CHAIR

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair  
Assembly Budget Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1  
1021 O Street, Suite 6240  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for budget request made by Assemblymember Ash Karla for a \$1.624 million Ongoing Investment for the Restoration of County Based IHSS Public Authority Consumer Advisory Committees and Governing Boards

Dear Assemblymember Ting and Assemblymember Arambula:

The undersigned organizations write today to request that you approve the budget request from Assemblymember Ash Karla to restore the funding for county-based IHSS Public Authority Advisory Committees and Governing Boards for the ongoing investment of \$1.624 million for that purpose.

The functioning of the IHSS Public Authority Advisory Committees (AC) and Governing Boards (GB) was drastically impacted when their funding was cut from \$56,000 to \$6,000 per year during the state's fiscal crisis in 2011. This funding has never been restored and the ACs and GBs have struggled to successfully perform their required mandates under the law – AB 1682.

The law requires that ACs and GBs provide much-needed oversight and recommendations on the delivery of IHSS for over 600,000 seniors and people with disabilities. These committees are the voice of the IHSS consumer and are required to have a 51 percent consumer majority. These committees were also charged with giving input and recommendations to any entity that had influence or authority over IHSS at the county, state, or federal level.

The Public Authorities, though linked, are a separate entity from the ACs and GBs. They are mandated to be the employer of record for union negotiations, provide a registry of workers, oversee worker eligibility and benefits, and provide training for consumers and providers. The ACs and GBs engage in their role of oversight and giving recommendations for improvement for these functions.

The loss of funding for the ACs and GBs greatly reduced how well they could function. Additional funding will greatly help with the following:

- Outreach for new members for existing committees and development of committees in Counties that do not have mandated ones. Only about half of California counties have functioning committees;
- Training and education of committee members. IHSS is an extremely complicated and ever-changing program. There is a steep initial learning curve and need for ongoing education;
- The need to connect with IHSS consumers for their input on how the program is working through surveys, town halls, brochures, newsletters, social media, and websites. The committees, in order to be the consumers' voice, need to hear from consumers;
- The need to connect with other committees for best practices and brainstorming;
- Funding for stipends, ADA compliance, travel for committee members, etc.;
- Digital upgrades for meetings. Hybrid meetings will greatly help with committee membership;
- A tremendous need for outreach for IHSS providers. There is a huge shortage now, and many consumers are going without needed help. This will take creativity and funding; and
- Consumer education has never taken place. It is vital and funding is needed.

For these reasons, and many more not specified, we the undersigned organizations are requesting the restoration of funding to the original level of \$56,000 per county to enable IHSS Advisory Committees and Governing Boards to function at their maximum capabilities for the benefit of the IHSS consumers and providers.

Sincerely,

*Michael Molesky*

Michael Molesky, Chair  
IHSS Advisory Commission  
County of Santa Cruz