



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, August 26, 2022
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM
Location: Remote Meeting
Present: Michael Molesky (Consumer, Chair), Lois Sones (Seniors Commission, Vice-Chair), Linda Campbell (Consumer), Patricia Fohrman (Provider), Foster Andersen (Consumer), Jozett Irgang (Consumer), Maria Arreola (Provider)
Excused: Becky Taylor (Consumer)
Absent: None
Guests: Max Umney (Analyst, Human Services Department), Diana Morales-Figueroa (ALTC Office Assistant III)
Staff: Juan Magaña (IHSS Public Authority)

Agenda

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order a 1:06PM; a quorum was present
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
 - a. Removed item 8.d (IHSS Program Updates)
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - i. May 27, 2022 Meeting
 - b. Correspondence
 - i. Commission on Disabilities
 1. March 10, 2022 Meeting
 2. April 14, 2022 Meeting
 - ii. Seniors Commission
 1. February 15, 2022 Meeting
 2. April 19, 2022 Meeting
 - c. Commission Vacancies
 - i. Two (2) – Consumer Representatives

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.

- ii. One (1) – Representative of an organization that advocates for people with disabilities or seniors
 - d. Motion to approve consent agenda called by:
 - i. First/Second: Irgang/Sones
 - ii. Ayes: Molesky, Sones, Andersen, Campbell, Arreola, Irgang
 - iii. Noes: None
 - iv. Abstain: Fohrman (not present for vote)
 - e. Motion carried unanimously
5. Oral Communications and Announcements:
- a. No oral communications or announcements were made
6. Master Shelter Plan Presentation – Max Umney
- a. Umney presented the following information regarding the County’s Master Shelter Plan:
 - i. Local governments have the responsibility to provide shelter to permanent and temporary residents affected by disasters within the County of Santa Cruz. This duty is delegated to the Human Services Department (HSD). Over the past year, HSD and its partner agencies have been engaged to update the county’s emergency shelter plan.
 - ii. An overview of how emergency shelters are opened was provided to the commission.
 - iii. One area of the plan that was identified as an area of improvement was how to serve people in our community who have Access and Functional Needs (AFN). Specifically, the areas surrounding outreach, transportation, and support for the AFN population.
 - 1. Outreach – individuals with AFN may have barriers to receiving information about disasters, therefore it is crucial to make a concerted effort to get them the information they need in a timely manner. The county does not have a comprehensive list of all AFN individuals residing in the county. During an emergency, a call center is established for people to call in, or email, to the county to obtain more info on the emergency or let the county know if they need support. Staff of the Adult and Long-Term Care division will conduct outreach to IHSS and APS clients in affected areas, but this is a small subset of the AFN population that may reside in a disaster area,
 - 2. Transportation – During the CZU fire, transportation challenges arose for people who did not have reliable access to transportation or people who had mobility impairments. To address these challenges, the department is working with Santa Cruz Metro and ParaCruz to make sure they can support us during an emergency. A plan has been developed where, in the event of an evacuation, ParaCruz will stage vehicles near the area and are set up for transporting individuals with AFN as well as medical equipment and service animals.

3. Support – prior versions of the shelter plan had minimal language on how to support the AFN population that came to the shelters. To address this, they looked at what other counties have done, specifically Los Angeles County, and determined that most people with AFN can be accommodated within congregate shelters. A functional assessment team would be deployed to determine if the potential emergency shelters are ADA compliant. Congregate shelters would normally be staffed with minimal medical personnel. However, if there is a large number of people who have medical needs that cannot be supported by the medical staff, they can work with the Health Services Agency to coordinate medical support via medical doctors and nurses.
- iv. Umney informed the commission that he came to this commission to obtain feedback on the AFN section of the Master Shelter Plan. Umney requested that the commission members review the plan, specifically focusing on the areas that would impact the AFN population and send any comments or questions to staff.
 1. Molesky suggested to speak to Clay Kempf at the Seniors Council as he worked with him in the past on a similar project. Also informed that the Volunteer Center would be a good source as they also have worked on an emergency packet in the past. PG& E and the Red Cross are also good resources
 2. Sones mentioned that the one area she had was with the medical needs as some people are diabetics and need insulin injections, but it appears it has been covered in the plan.
 3. Fohrman inquired if the CERT team is considered in the Master Shelter Plan.
 - a. Umney responded that it is not called out specifically in the plan, but it is covered in the general emergency response plan for the county.
 4. Molesky added that the Central California Alliance for Health has disaster protocols for staff and if clients are at the shelters, hopefully staff from the Alliance would be at one of the shelters to assist.
- b. A reminder to the commission to send commends and feedback on the Master Shelter Plan to staff so it can be compiled and forwarded to Umney.

7. Regular Agenda – Action Items

- a. IHSS Advisory Commission Meeting Location (AB 361)
 - i. The commission reviewed the AB 361 findings and determined the need to continue holding meetings remotely.
 - ii. Motion to approve the AB 361 findings and hold the next IHSS Advisory Commission meeting remotely was called by:
 1. First/Second: Sones/Campbell
 2. Ayes: Molesky, Sones, Andersen, Campbell, Irgang, Arreola, Fohrman
 3. Noes: None

- 4. Abstain: None
- iii. Motion carried unanimously

8. Regular Agenda – Information Items

a. Updates/Housekeeping

i. Reminders from the Chair

- 1. This item was not discussed

ii. Topics & Speakers

- 1. Molesky inquired on getting a speaker from the Volunteer Center as he would like to get updates on what is happening with the services they were offering during COVID.

- a. Staff reported that an email was sent to the Volunteer Center but a response has not been received. A follow up email will be sent.

- 2. Molesky also asked to invite the union to attend the commission meetings.

b. Medi-Cal Asset Limit Increase

- i. Staff reported that the Medi-Cal property limit increased on July 1st 2022; for a household of one, the countable property limit is now \$130,000 and increases by \$65,000 per each additional household member. Prior to July 1st 2022, the property limit was \$2,000 for a household of one.

- ii. Included in the meeting packet is the Medi-Cal Information Notice which provides this information.

c. Provider Concerns

- i. Molesky reminded the commission that this item is on the agenda for providers to bring up any concerns they may have.

- ii. No provider concerns reported.

~~d. IHSS Program Updates~~

e. Public Authority Updates

- i. Staff provided the following Public Authority updates:

- 1. Back-Up Provider System

- a. The state has put forth a new program requirement for all counties to have a permanent back-up provider system in place to take effect October 1st 2022.

- b. Previously we had an emergency back-up system that a consumer could access if their provider was not able to care for them due to a COVID related reason. The back-up provider who took on the assignment would receive a \$2.00 per hour wage supplement.

- c. The new back-up provider system is no longer tied to COVID. Instead, it is to provide urgent need for provided for backup supportive services related to personal care that

cannot be met by an existing provider or if there is an urgent need that cannot be met because the recipient is transitioning to home based care and does not yet have an identified provider.

- d. There is a limit in hours a recipient can access, 80 hours per fiscal year, however they do allow an additional 80 hours to be granted as needed for severely impaired recipients, potentially 160 hours a recipient can access during a fiscal year. Our fiscal year starts July 1st to June 30th.
- e. Providers do have to be referred out by Public Authority and be part of the registry in order to be referred out as a back-up provider.
- f. The Public Authority is revising its policies and procedures for this new back-up system and will begin recruitment within the registry for providers to take on back-up assignments. Some recruitment ideas include flyers and emails to registry providers.

f. Subcommittee Reports

i. Legislative/Advocacy (Molesky)

1. Molesky provided the following information

- a. Reverend Ryan Althaus reached out to Molesky to discuss bringing back the Caregiver Café at the McPherson Center.
- b. Meals on wheels is losing their kitchen in Live Oak, a new property was purchased by Mid Pen Housing and Molesky met with them to discuss the possibility or co-locating the Meals on Wheels kitchen in their property.
- c. Dominican Health and Wellness Center on 21430 E.Cliff DR is holding a support group for those with disabilities on the second Tuesday of every month from 3PM-5PM.

ii. Website (Taylor/Andersen)

- 1. Anderson reported that the enrollment page is not clear and providers don't know where to look on the webpage.
 - a. Staff reported that the main Public Authority page has a section for providers and the first bullet states "Enroll as a Provider". When a potential provider calls to get instructions, Public Authority staff direct them to this page and instruct them to click on the "Enroll as a Provider" link. Once the new page loads, step-by-step instructions are listed on how to enroll.

iii. CICA Conference Calls (Campbell)

- 1. Campbell reported that this month's speaker was Lisa Hayes, chair of the State Independent Living Council (SLIC). The SLICV's vision is to influence policy and access to service delivery for individuals with disabilities in California, they create policy and system

changes for independent living. There are 28 independent living centers in California.

9. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 2:34PM

Next Regular Meeting: September 23, 2022, 1:00PM – 3:00PM

Minutes recorded by: Diana Morales-Figueroa, Office Assistant III