



County of Santa Cruz

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY

18 W. Beach Street, Watsonville, CA; P.O. Box 1300, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

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IHSS Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, January 27, 2023
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM
Location: Remote Meeting
Present: Michael Molesky (Consumer, Chair), Lois Sones (Seniors Commission, Vice-Chair), Becky Taylor (Commission on Disabilities), Rebecca Jordan (Relative of Consumer), Foster Andersen (Consumer), Linda Campbell (Consumer), Jozett Irgang (Consumer), Maria Arreola (Provider), Patricia Fohrman (Provider)
Excused: None
Absent: None
Guests: None
Staff: Juan Magaña (IHSS Public Authority), Maribel Gonzalez (Office Assistant III)

Agenda

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting was called to order at 1:05PM; a quorum was present.
2. Roll Call
 - a. Welcome new Commissioner – Rebecca Jordan
 - i. Jordan introduced herself to the commission, informed the group that she is passionate about helping seniors, people in need and a strong advocate. Jordan has family members who use IHSS services.
3. Agenda Review
 - a. Molesky requested to move item 7.e.i.1 to Oral Communications and announcements (agenda item 5)
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - i. September 23, 2022 Meeting
 - ii. December 7, 2022 Special Meeting
 - b. Correspondence
 - i. Commission on Disabilities
 1. August 11, 2022 Meeting
 - ii. Seniors Commission

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.

1. June 21, 2022 Meeting

c. Commission Vacancies

i. Two (2) – Consumer Representatives

d. Motion to approve consent agenda called by:

i. First/Second: Taylor/Sones

ii. Ayes: Molesky, Jordan, Andersen, Campbell, Irgang, Arreola, Fohrman, Taylor, Sones

iii. Noes: None

iv. Abstain: None

e. Motion carried unanimously

5. Oral Communications and Announcements:

a. Michael Molesky, Chair, provided the following information:

i. HICAP is doing workshops about the increase in asset limits for Medi-Cal. For additional information, please contact HICAP (contact info available in the Senior Network Guide).

ii. Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee is looking to fill some vacancies, if interested, please consider applying.

6. 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 meet remotely at their February 24 2023 meeting.

ii. The commission will be revisiting in-person meetings starting March 2023.

iii. Motion to approve the AB 361 findings and hold the next IHSS Advisory Commission meeting remotely was called by:

1. First/Second: Sones/Andersen

2. Ayes: Molesky, Sones, Jordan, Andersen, Campbell, Irgang, Arreola, Fohrman, Taylor

3. Noes: None

4. Abstain: None

iv. Motion carried unanimously

b. 2022 IHSS Advisory Commission Attendance

i. Staff reported that the IHSS Advisory Commission is required to submit its attendance records for all 2022 meetings to the Board of Supervisors by January 31st, 2023.

1. The meeting packet included the 2022 IHSS Advisory Commission attendance records.

ii. Motion to approve 2022 IHSS Advisory Commission Attendance Records was called by:

1. First/Second: Campbell/Sones

2. Ayes: Molesky, Sones, Jordan, Andersen, Campbell, Irgang, Arreola, Fohrman, Taylor
3. Noes: None
4. Abstain: None

iii. Motion carried unanimously

c. 2023 Commission Goals – No action taken on this item

- i. Molesky informed the commission that he wanted to start off the year by reviewing the IHSS program: What is going well? What needs to be improved? The lack of providers; the emergency contract back-up program; any issues facing us, and any additional concerns. Molesky opened the floor for commissioners to comment
 1. Taylor inquired wanting to discuss the provider registry. She would like to know the following: how many people are on the registry? how often providers stay with consumers? is there a correlation between the amount of hours a consumer is allocated to how long a provider stays with the client?
 - a. Molesky suggested adding recruitment of providers to this list.
 2. Sones mentioned she wanted to second Taylor's questions. Sones added that lack of available providers within the county is the most challenging issue. Overall, there is just not enough providers. She would also like to discuss the timeliness of the emergency back-up assignments as well as some of funding that is coming from the Master Plan for Aging for workforce development.
 3. Andersen informed the group that he was recently approved for one of the waiver programs and now gets additional hours through Libertana. Andersen reported that Libertana provides a variety of services that IHSS does not cover such as a personal response emergency system (at no cost to him) and LVN or RN services.
 - a. Molesky suggested that a presentation on the available waiver programs would be helpful for the commission.
 4. Fohrman reported that as a provider, she is spending a lot of time doing social work duties for the clients she serves. She has spent a lot of time helping her clients with their EBT (for CalFresh). Fohrman mentioned that clients are not being reassessed when their health improves, after reporting a change which resulted in an increase, but their health is now better. Fohrman also indicated there is also no system in place where social workers check-in with providers regarding their client's current/real needs. Fohrman would like to know what resources are available for providers.
 5. Jordan stated that she too is interested in the same questions as Taylor. She would also like to know what has been attempted to combat the workforce shortage – thinks universities and colleges would be a good source, particularly for students on a medical or social work track.

- ii. Molesky reported that he would summarize these items and bring back to the commission for discussion. He also indicated that the commission would review its goals and objectives from the 2022 Biennial report at the February commission meeting.

7. Regular Agenda – Information Items

a. Updates/Housekeeping

i. Reminders from the Chair

- 1. This item was not discussed

ii. Topics & Speakers

- 1. This item was not discussed

b. Provider Concerns

- i. This item was covered in agenda item 6.c

c. IHSS Program Updates

- i. Staff provided the following update on behalf of Alicia Morales, Director of Adult and Long Term-Care Services (not present):

- 1. We have completed the request for a quote with a vendor to assist with our countywide needs assessment for the Master Plan for Aging. We are currently in contract negotiation with the vendor. Once that is complete, we will be reaching out to the IHSS Advisory Commission for feedback on what their goals are and what they are looking to obtain from the needs assessment.

d. Public Authority Updates

- i. Staff provided the following Public Authority updates:

- 1. On November 15, 2022, the Public Authority resumed in-person orientations for all individuals who are enrolling as an IHSS provider. At the onset of the COVID pandemic, enrollment requirements were waived, and all enrollment activities were conducted remotely, via email, mail, fax. Now that things are winding down, we have returned to in-person enrollment activities. The orientations are being held weekly, alternating each week between our Santa Cruz and Watsonville offices. Upon completion of the online enrollment portion, the provider will schedule themselves for their in-person orientation where they will submit their original identification documents (ID and SSN), meet with union representatives, attend a question-and-answer session with Public Authority and Fiscal staff, and obtain their Live Scan form to complete their background requirement.

- a. Taylor inquired if the Registry is included in the in-person orientation – staff informed that at this time it is not, but we may include it in the future.

- b. Jordan inquired if a member of the commission can attend the orientation to see what information is covered. Staff

reported that only individuals enrolling are allowed to attend at this time.

2. In addition, the Public Authority is looking at resuming reduced fee live scan services. Currently, new IHSS providers must pay \$60-\$70 for their background fee. Once implemented, providers who complete their background check with the Public Authority will only pay \$32.00. We are still in the planning stages but hope to resume providing this service as early as the Spring or Summer of 2023 at the latest.

e. Subcommittee Reports

i. Legislative/Advocacy (Molesky)

1. ~~Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee~~ – this item was moved to agenda item 5.a.ii.
2. Molesky reported that he will be tracking new laws that will be presented to the legislature.

ii. Website (Taylor/Andersen)

1. Andersen reported that he liked the enrollment link on our website
2. Molesky inquired if we have information regarding vaccines/boosters, and rapid testing for both consumers and providers on our website.
 - a. Staff indicated that it is not as this information has been posted on the Electronic Services Portal for IHSS. The majority of health information is posted in the Health Services Agency website. However, we will look into seeing if this information can be added to In-Home Supportive Services website.
3. Andersen stated that there should be a list of accessible resource links posted on In-Home Supportive Services website.

iii. CICA Conference Calls (Campbell)

1. Campbell reported that at this month's meeting the guest speaker was Daniel Morris, from the Fiscal department of the California Department of Social Services. She presented the January 10th budget which had an increase of 18.6 billion to 25 billion which was a three and a quarter percent increase. The budget is in the CDSS website.
2. They also discussed redistributing funds leftover from advisory committees to counties that are more active. They suggested an end of the year allocation of unspent funds.

8. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 2:16PM

Next Regular Meeting: February 24, 2023, 1:00PM – 3:00PM