



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, October 22, 2021
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM
Location: Remote Meeting – Teleconference
Present: Michael Molesky (Consumer, Chair), Lois Sones (Seniors Commission, Vice-Chair), Maria Arreola (Provider), Becky Taylor (Consumer), Linda Campbell (Consumer), Foster Andersen (Consumer), Patricia Fohrman (Provider), Jozette Irgang (Consumer)
Excused: None
Absent: None
Guests: Janie Whiteford (CICA)
Staff: Juan Magaña (IHSS Public Authority)

Agenda

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting was called to order at 1:02PM; a quorum was present
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. September 24, 2021 Minutes
 - b. Correspondence
 - i. Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes (included with meeting packet)
 - ii. Seniors Commission Meeting Minutes (included with meeting packet)
 - c. Commission Vacancies
 - i. Two (2) – Consumer Representatives
 - 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: Taylor/Sones
 - ii. Ayes: Molesky, Arreola, Campbell, Fohrman, Andersen, Irgang, Sones, Taylor
 - iii. Noes: None
 - iv. Abstain: None
 - e. Motion carried
5. Oral Communications and Announcements:
 - a. No members of the public present; no comments or announcements made
6. CICA Presentation - Janie Whiteford

- a. Janie Whiteford provided information on the California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA) including its early days, mission and purpose, membership, financing, its benefits, and future goals.
 - i. A question-and-answer session followed Janie's presentation.
- 7. IHSS Advisory Commission Meeting Location (AB 361)
 - a. Staff reported that at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsome signed an executive order that waived the teleconference requirements of the Brown Act. That executive order expired on September 30th; however, the pandemic is still present and counties throughout the state have various rules in place regarding public meetings. As a result, Assembly Bill 361 was signed into law and it allows some modifications from the teleconference requirements of the Brown Act as long as certain requirements are met.
 - b. Under AB 361, a legislative body may continue to conduct meetings under modified Brown Act teleconferencing rules provided that certain circumstances remain in effect and specific findings are made by a majority vote.
 - i. The circumstances are:
 - 1. There is a current state of emergency that has been declared and has not ended; and
 - 2. State and local health officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.
 - ii. The specific findings were provided to the commission in their meeting packet and commission members were asked to review and discuss.
 - c. Staff also reported that commission meetings do not have to be held remotely, but if the commission chooses to hold them strictly remotely, or a combination of in-person and remote meeting, then the commission must vote to approve the findings at each meeting.
 - d. Commissioners agreed to continue with remote meetings and possibly include video conferencing as an option.
 - e. Motion to approve the findings and proceed with remote meetings was called by:
 - i. First/Second: Andersen/Sones
 - ii. Ayes: Molesky, Arreola, Campbell, Fohrman, Irgang, Andersen, Sones,
 - iii. Noes: None
 - iv. Abstain: Taylor, not present for vote.
 - f. Motion carried
 - g. November meeting to be held via teleconference only; staff to bring teleconference/videoconference meeting options with costs to the commission so the commission can vote and decide how to hold the January IHSS Advisory Commission meeting
- 8. CICA Membership
 - a. Staff reported that the Public Authority received an invoice for renewing the IHSS Advisory Commission's membership to CICA. The invoice is in the amount of \$750.00 and it covers the current Fiscal Year; a copy of the invoice was included in the meeting packet.
 - b. Staff also reported that the last CICA membership invoice was in the amount of \$500.00, which covered Fiscal year 20/21 and the commission voted to renew its membership and pay the invoice at the March 2021 IHSS Advisory Commission meeting.
 - c. Discussion was held between commission members regarding this item; a motion was called to renew the IHSS Advisory Commission's CICA membership and pay the \$750.00 invoice:

- i. First/Second: Sones/Campbell
 - ii. Ayes: Molesky, Arreola, Fohrman, Irgang, Andersen, Sones, Campbell
 - iii. Noes: None
 - iv. Abstain: Taylor, not present for vote.
 - d. Motion carried
 - 9. Vaccination Requirements for IHSS Caregivers
 - a. Staff provided the following information regarding COVID-19 vaccination requirements for IHSS caregivers:
 - i. A new public health order was issued on September 28th, 2021 that requires certain IHSS caregivers to be fully vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine by November 30th, 2021. This requirement does not apply to individuals who live with the recipient and provide services to no one else; nor does it apply to individuals who provide services to a family member, even if they do not live with them and provide services to no one else.
 - ii. Caregivers do have an option to request an exemption for the vaccine requirement; the exemption request must be provided to their employer, the IHSS recipient.
 - iii. The Department of Social Services sent out a letter informing both caregivers and recipients of this requirement.
 - iv. Neither the County nor the Public Authority are not tasked with enforcement of this requirement; enforcement lies on the employer, the IHSS recipient.
 - v. The Department of Social Services sent out a mailer to all caregivers and recipients informing them of this requirement; copies of the mailer were included in the meeting packet.
- 10. Biennial Report
 - a. Staff reminded the commission that every two years the IHSS Advisory Commission has to submit a biennial report to the Board of Supervisors; the next report is due 1/31/2022.
 - b. A copy of the report that was submitted in January 2020 was included in the meeting packet.
 - c. Staff advised that part of the November IHSS Advisory Commission meeting will be set aside to review and draft the biennial report.
- 11. IHSS Program Updates
 - a. Staff provided the following IHSS program updates:
 - i. The county is currently undergoing contract negotiations with SEIU local 521.
 - ii. The Human Services Department is continuing to demobilize the COVID-19 shelters.
 - iii. Santa Cruz County is in process of purchasing a local motel for temporary housing for people experiencing homelessness
 - iv. Emily Bali, Human Services Department Deputy Director, is retiring in December and Kimberly Peterson, Employment and Benefit Service Division Director, was promoted to the Deputy Director role
 - v. Home Safe funding allocation for Adult Protective Services is \$892,083 – we will be working on expanding our Home Safe program and partnering with our new Housing for Health Division to maximize impact
- 12. Public Authority Updates

- a. Staff reported that there are no new Public Authority updates to provide at this time as all projects that the Public Authority was working on are on hold due to limited staffing.
13. Updates/Housekeeping
- a. Reminders from the Chair
 - i. No reminders provided
 - b. Topics & Speakers
 - i. This item was not discussed
14. Subcommittee Reports
- a. Legislative/Advocacy (Molesky)
 - i. Molesky reported that there are a lot of changes that are being proposed by the federal government, but the implementation dates are not always clear, so he will continue to monitor them and report back when more information is available.
 - b. Website (Vacant)
 - c. CICA Conference Calls (Campbell)
 - i. Campbell reported that the last CICA call included guests speakers from both SEIU Local 2015 and the United Domestic Workers; both presenters provided information on projects that they are working on.
 - ii. Campbell also reported that CICA will be holding a training on the funding for the Advisory Boards; the training will be in November.

Meeting adjourned at 2:29PM

Next Regular Meeting: November 19, 2021, 1:00PM – 3:00PM