



# 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, September 24, 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)  
Excused: None  
Absent: Foster Andersen (Consumer), Patricia Fohrman (Provider), Jozette Irgang (Consumer)  
Guests: Alicia Morales (Adult and Long-Term Care Director); Janie Whiteford (Staff: Karina Aragon (IHSS Public Authority))

### Agenda

1. Call to Order
  - a. Meeting was called to order at 1:26 PM
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
  - a. Agenda reviewed; no changes made.
4. Consent Agenda
  - a. August 27, 2021 Minutes
  - b. Commission Vacancies
    - i. Two (2) – Consumer Representatives
    - ii. One (1) – Representative of County Advisory Body or County Staff
      1. Molesky stated that per conversation with staff, changes to the membership section of County Code will be official after next Board meeting.
  - c. Motion to Approve Consent Agenda called by:
    - i. First/Second: Sones/Taylor
    - ii. Ayes: Molesky, Arreola, Campbell, Sones, Taylor,
    - iii. Noes: None
    - iv. Abstain: None
  - d. Motion carried
5. Oral Communications and Announcements:
  - a. Janie Whiteford, California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance (CICA) President provided the following information:
    - i. Former CICA President, Charlie Bean, passed away in June.
    - ii. CICA Website has been revised and will be up in the next few weeks.

- iii. Trainings for consumers were held during the summer and one coming up via zoom in October for commission members on the history of IHSS and Advisory Commission allocation.
    - iv. Whiteford stated CICA lost staff email address and will be sending membership dues invoice to Aragon.
      - 1. Molesky advised that staff was waiting for an invoice from CICA.
    - v. Whiteford stated CICA is concerned about training for Independent Providers, CICA wants to make sure trainings include consumer feedback.
    - vi. Whiteford requested to be put on the agenda for a future meeting. At Molesky's request Whiteford provided her email for communication.
  - b. Taylor informed commission that on October 16, 2021, Ramsay Park in Watsonville will be working on making the park accessible.
- 6. Updates/Housekeeping
  - a. Reminders from the Chair
    - i. None provided
  - b. Topics & Speakers
    - i. Staff to schedule Janie Whiteford to present
- 7. Discussion - Master Plan for Aging (Molesky)
  - a. Molesky stated he'd asked that this be put on the agenda to hear from county on Master Plan for Aging (MPA) and gather input from commissioners on concerns related to MPA.
  - b. Morales stated that with support and funding from the County Administrative Office the county is working on hiring a consultant to help develop a 2-year plan that includes input from all stakeholders, including commission. MPA is a 10-year plan in the early stages; RFI recently closed consultant.
  - c. Molesky expressed concern over the scarcity of caregivers, transition to normalcy per COVID-19, food insecurity.
- 8. COVID-19 Updates (Molesky)
  - a. Molesky stated he had asked for agenda item to get an update on COVID-19 situation in the county.
    - i. Sones provided the following information:
      - 1. The Centers for Disease Control announced decision for Pfizer recipients to get a booster shot.
      - 2. The number of new cases in Santa Cruz County is going down; 5 deaths since Delta surge, all unvaccinated individuals.
  - b. Per Molesky, consumer as the employer can request that their caregiver(s) be vaccinated and wear face mask.
    - i. Sones mentioned that due to scarcity of caregivers it places recipient in a bind to require IP to get vaccinated as a condition of employment.
- 9. IHSS Program Updates (Aragon, Morales)
  - a. IHSS Career Pathways Program: pilot training program to be implemented no later than 9/1/2022 through 3/31/2024. Participation is voluntary and will be open to IHSS/WPCS providers who have completed enrollment. Five career pathways to be offered. CDSS will hold competitive process for third-party entities (county, PA, nonprofit) to provide trainings in person or online. IPs will be compensation at county's hourly wage rate and can receive additional incentive payments for completing pathways and providing services to recipients.
  - b. Emergency Back Up Registry: IHSS is pending information from the California Department of Social Services with details on the operation of back-up registry.

- c. Leadership currently working to fill behind two IHSS social workers who promoted.
- d. For reassessments, CDSS extended phone assessments until the end of state of emergency declaration. Social Workers will conduct home visit upon request.
- e. For intakes, IHSS social work staff gather as much information over the phone and conduct a brief in-person home visit.
- f. Morales reported, COVID-19 related FEMA funding is ending December 2021. County is working on demobilization of shelters, 6 10 people per week are moving into permanent housing as we demobilize.
- g. Morales reported, slightly higher than 70% of county eligible residents have received first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. 63% of eligible residents are fully vaccinated. Current Health Services Agency (HSA) Director, Mimi Hall, is retiring; recruitment underway to hire a new Director.
- h. Morales reported, new State budget include new \$70 million allocation to Adult Protective Services (APS). Santa Cruz County is waiting for allocation information to add positions. Part of reason for increased allocation is change in definition of “dependent adult” and “elder”. Currently “elder” is defined as age 65 and older. As of January 1, 2022, “elder” will be defined as age 60 and older. In Santa Cruz County this is about a 30% increase in number of those defined as elder.
- i. Morales reported, Santa Cruz County Home Safe Program anticipates receiving allocation in the next month, looking to have program thru 2025.
- j. Morales reported, Veteran Services Office now open to the public Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-5p.m.
- k. Morales reported, Adult Protective Services is working on a Public Service Announcement (PSA) regarding Elder Abuse Awareness.
- l. Morales reported, IHSS Public Authority negotiations completed, Memorandum of Understanding approved.

#### 10. Public Authority Updates (Aragon)

- a. Aragon reported, Public Authority continues to conduct remote new provider enrollment remotely, meaning providers submit their identification card and social security card by mail or U.S. mail. Remote enrollment is authorized through the end of the state of emergency.
- b. Aragon reported that in collaboration with Business Analytics team, Public Authority is working on creating a report that will allow for targeted recruitment of non-registry providers who live or work in the same area as recipients who have a need for a registry provider.
- c. Aragon reported, IHSS is working on contacting recipients that show no payroll activity in over 60 days to address issues that have delayed provider payment or connect with Public Authority registry if the recipient does not have a provider. Recipients are opting to hold off on hiring a caregiver per COVID-19 concerns.

#### 11. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Legislative/Advocacy (Molesky)
  - i. Alliance looking at a 5-year plan to address need of Medi-Cal recipients. Task force for dual eligible recipients.
- b. Website (Vacant)
- c. CICA Conference Calls (Campbell)
  - i. Highly recommend attending training on the history of IHSS.
  - ii. Brown Act AB 361- bill on his desk, anticipated he will sign.
  - iii. AB 172- Emergency Back Up Registry. Working on eligibility criteria.

- iv. Current COVID Emergency Back Up Registry through 12/31/21
- v. 10/6/21 History of IHSS and in November IHSS financing class
- vi. Per Campbell, Keeslar encouraged IHSS recipients keep an eye out on managed care

Meeting adjourned at 2:31 PM

**Next Regular Meeting:** October 22, 2021, 1:00PM – 3:00PM