

County of Santa Cruz

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY

500 Westridge Drive, Watsonville, CA; P.O. Box 1300, Santa Cruz, CA 95061 (831) 454-4036 FAX: (831) 763-8906

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda IHSS Advisory Commission

Date: Friday, October 24, 2025

Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM

Location: 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 206. Santa Cruz, CA

The use of facemasks is recommended for all attendees of the IHSS Advisory Commission meeting.

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order
- Roll Call
- 3. Agenda Review
- 4. Public Comment: Anyone wishing to address the commission on any item within the jurisdiction of the Commission and not listed on the agenda may do so at this time. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes in duration.
- 5. Consent Agenda
 - a. Meeting Minutes
 - i. August 15, 2025......Page 3
 - b. Commission Vacancies
 - i. Four (4) Consumer Representatives (A)
 - ii. One (1) Provider (B)
 - iii. Two (2) Representative of Advocate Organization or Representative of Commission on Disabilities (C)
- 6. Regular Agenda Action Items
 - a. Election of Officers:
 - i. Vice-Chair
 - b. CICA Membership
 - c. Public Participation IHSS Advisory Commission
 - d. CCAH Consumer Complaints
 - e. IHSS Advisory Commission Website Review: Recommended Changes
 - f. Recruitment Strategies: IHSS Advisory Commission Vacancies

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.

- 7. Regular Agenda Information Items a. Information Sharing i. Announcements ii. Topics & Speakers b. Biennial Report......Page 13

 - c. Commission Budget......Page 20
 - d. Registry Data......Page 23
 - e. IHSS Consumers
 - f. IHSS Providers
 - g. IHSS Program and Public Authority Updates
 - i. Safety Supplies Distribution Changes
- 8. Report Outs
 - a. Legislative Volunteer needed.
 - b. CICA Conference Calls
 - c. Seniors Commission
- 9. Future Agenda Items
 - a. Commission Re-Set: Goals and Objectives
- 10. Correspondence
- 11. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: November 21, 2025, 1:00PM – 3:00PM @ 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 206, Santa Cruz.



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IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY

500 Westridge Drive, 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 15, 2025

Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM

Location: 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 206. Santa Cruz, CA

Present: Lois Sones (Seniors Commission), Maria Arreola (Provider), Stephanie Auld

(Consumer), Charlie Walker (Provider)

Excused: Foster Anderson (Consumer)

Staff: Juan Magana (Staff), Julie Gabriel (Staff), Jessica Cirksena (Presenter), Ann

Jackson (Assistant County Counsel)

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 1:04PM; a quorum was present
- Roll Call
- 3. Agenda Review
- 4. Public Comment
- 5. Consent Agenda
 - a. Meeting Minutes
 - i. April 25, 2025
 - ii. June 27, 2025
 - b. Commission Vacancies
 - i. Four (4) Consumer Representatives (A)
 - ii. Two (2) Representative of Advocate Organization or Representative of Commission on Disabilities (C)
 - c. Motion to approve consent agenda
 - i. First/Second: Auld/Arreola
 - ii. Ayes: Sones, Arreola, Auld, Walker
 - iii. Noes: None
 - iv. Abstain: None
 - d. Motion passed unanimously
- 6. Guest Speaker: Jessica Cirksena IHSS Overview
 - a. Presentation on IHSS, see attached presentation slides for information covered.
- 7. Regular Agenda Action Items
 - a. Election of Officers:

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i. Chair

- 1. Staff reported that Commissioner Andersen and Sones both expressed interested in taking on the role of chair.
- 2. The commission voted, all votes in favor of Sones being the chair for the commission.
- 3. Staff to reach out to Andersen to inform and inquire if he would be interested in the vice-chair seat.

ii. Vice-Chair:

- 1. No nominations for vice-chair
- 2. Motion to move this item to September meeting called by:
 - a. First/Second: Auld/Walker
 - b. Ayes: Sones, Arreola, Auld, Walker
 - c. Noes: None
 - d. Abstain: None
- 3. Motion passed unanimously
- b. Recruitment Strategies: IHSS Advisory Commission Vacancies
 - i. Staff informed that he is working with HSD's Public Information Officer to develop some recruitment materials for the commission vacancies
 - 1. The commission requested to review/approve them before they are published.
 - ii. Sones to draft a recruitment flyer, will send to staff so it can be forwarded to the commission for feedback prior to the September meeting.
- 8. Regular Agenda Information Items
 - a. Information Sharing
 - i. Announcements
 - 1. No announcements made.
 - ii. Topics & Speakers
 - 1. Auld suggested having a symposium of private care agencies to talk to IHSS recipients on how they retained their workforce.
 - a. Staff suggested that this may not be useful for IHSS recipients as IHSS will never be competitive with private care agencies. IHSS wages are set by the county at negotiations, private care agencies can pay more and require certain experience before hiring a care provider – IHSS does not do this.
 - b. Commission Budget
 - i. Staff referenced information included in meeting packet.
 - c. Registry Data
 - i. Staff referenced information included in meeting packet.

- d. IHSS Consumers
 - i. No comments
- e. IHSS Providers
 - i. No comments
- f. IHSS Program and Public Authority Updates
 - i. Jessica Cirksena provided the following updates:
 - CA state budget from July- financial penalties for late assessments, with higher level of care- state no longer covers penalties. 16% growth of program, 50% OA staff vacancy, 30% SW on leave, behind on reassessments. Program must focus on reassessments.
 - 2. Telehealth reassessments for some clients, ready for live rollout.
 - 3. Provider incentives; Safeway gift cards. Allocated funding quarterly raffle, in hard to service areas.

9. Report Outs

- a. Legislative
 - i. No report out; Sones state there is a need for someone to take on legislation to be discussed at next meeting
- b. CICA Conference Calls
 - i. Auld reported on AB283 Statewide Collective Bargaining in approval process higher wages to effect poorer counties more (negotiations covering all CA counties). Prob won't pass.
- c. Seniors Commission
 - i. No mtg in July. Senior Resource Fair in Capitola.
- 10. Future Agenda Items:
 - a. Identify a commission member to monitor relevant legislative updates
 - b. Commission recruitment material review/approval
 - c. Public participation IHSS Advisory Commission
 - d. Central Coast Alliance complaints
 - e. Goals, priorities and commission re-set
 - Website review
- 11. Correspondence
 - a. None
- 12. Adjournment:
 - a. Meeting adjourned at 2:58pm

Next Regular Meeting: September 26, 2025, 1:00PM – 3:00PM @ 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 206, Santa Cruz

Understanding In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

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Topics for Today

- ➤ What is IHSS?
- ➤ Who is eligible?
- > Understanding the different roles
- > Q & A

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Overview of IHSS

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What is IHSS?

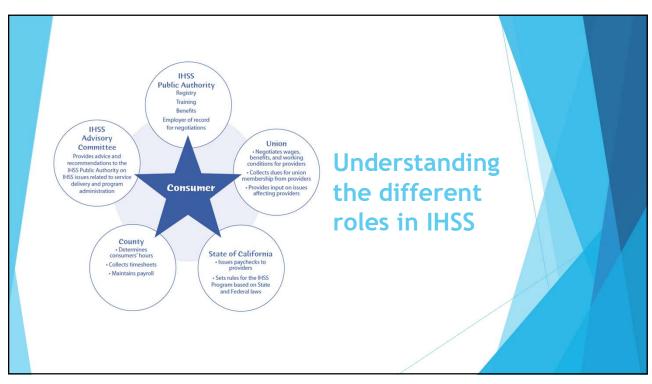
- Statewide program that provides home care services to help seniors and people with disabilities remain in their own homes
- Provides basic services to individuals who cannot safely perform the tasks themselves
- Administered by each County under the direction of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
- Alternative to out-of-home placement
- Funded through: Federal, State, and County dollars

Who is eligible for IHSS?

Any California resident is eligible for IHSS if they:

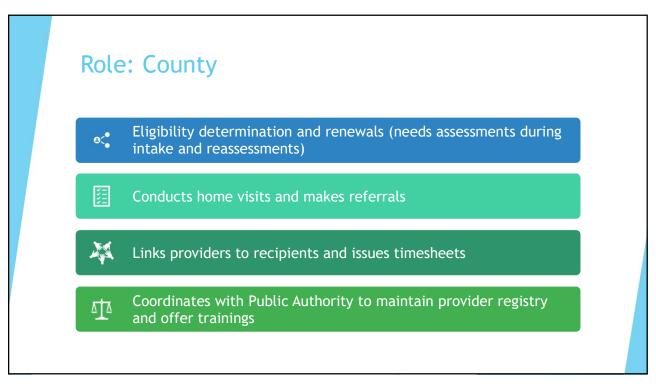
- ☐ Are blind, disabled, or 65 years of age or older
- ☐ Are SSI/SSP or Medi-Cal eligible
- ☐ Are living in a home or apartment (not including a hospital, nursing home, assisted living, or licensed care facility)
- □ Cannot live safely at home without assistance
- Obtain a health care certification (SOC 873) from a licensed health care professional indicating

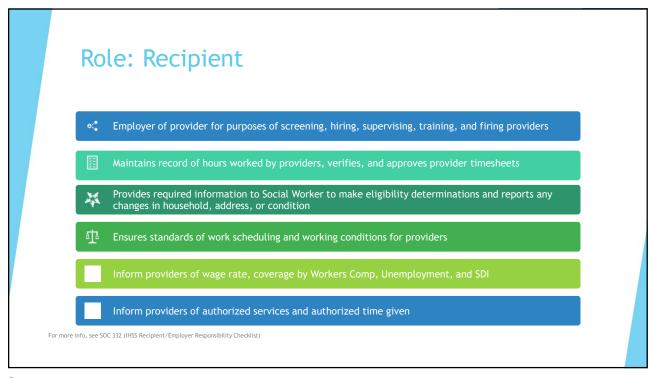
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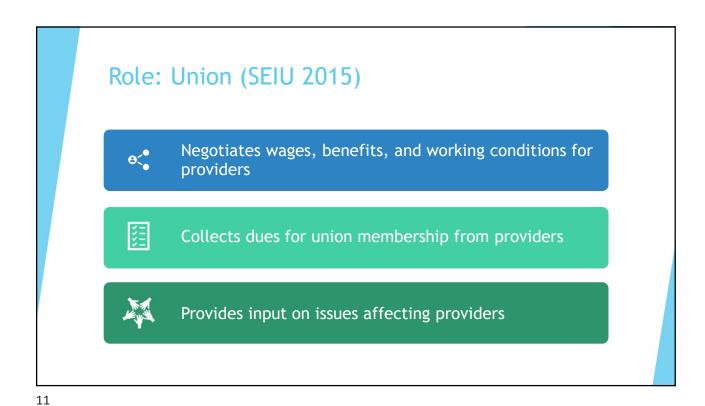
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Role: IHSS Advisory Commission

Provide advice and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on IHSS issues related to service delivery and program administration

Review pending State and Federal legislation that may impact the IHSS program, consumers, and/or providers and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors

Stay informed and educated on IHSS and Public Authority issues

Provide a forum for consumers, providers, advocates, and other interested parties to participate in IHSS policy and program development

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Page 11

Do you receive IHSS and want to make a difference in the lives of seniors and people with disabilities?

If the answer is YES -

THE IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION NEEDS YOU!

Santa Cruz County



If you receive or have received In-Home Supportive Services and are interested in improving the system, the In-Home Supportive Services Advisory Commission is looking for you. Come to a meeting and check us out. We meet the fourth Friday of the month at the Emeline Avenue Complex.

Appointments are made by the Board of Supervisors. If interested, please submit a letter of interest to the County Supervisor over the district in which you reside.







- https://www.santacruzcountyca.gov/Government/Commissions,CommitteesAdvisoryBodies.aspx
- (831) 454-4036
- IHSSAdvisoryCommission@santacruzcountyca.gov



4th Friday of the month, 1:00-3:00 PM 1400 Emeline Avenue (Building K), Room 206, Santa Cruz, CA 95060



County of Santa Cruz

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

DATE: January 31, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Juan C. Magaña, Staff

RE: In-Home Supportive Services Advisory Commission 2022-2023 Report

Attached is the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Advisory Commission biennial report. The commission would like to thank the Board for your ongoing support and the opportunity to provide input in the operations of the IHSS program. Currently, there are two vacancies that the commission is seeking to fill. The Commission appreciates the Board's advocacy in filling these vacancies. Lastly, the Commission would like to recognize the Human Services Department and its staff for its dedication to the Commission throughout the years.

In the next two years, the Commission plans on advocating for livable wages for IHSS care providers. The commission also plans on familiarizing themselves on the services available to all IHSS recipients under the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) program. Lastly, the commission plans to advocate for the needs of IHSS recipients and caregivers to be included in plans when developing the local Master Plan for Aging.

IHSS Advisory Commission Report - 2024

2022 - 2023

Role of the Commission

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Advisory Commission is a state-mandated advisory board established under AB 1682. The powers and duties of the IHSS Advisory Commission, as defined by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors' Ordinance #4655, Chapter 2.124.070 of the Santa Cruz County Code, are to:

- 1. Serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors, as the governing board of the IHSS Public Authority, and any administrative body in the County related to the delivery and administration of the IHSS;
- 2. Review policies related to the delivery of IHSS and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding any proposed changes;
- 3. Review pending State and Federal legislation that may impact the IHSS program, consumers, and/or providers and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding any proposed changes;
- 4. Stay informed and educated on IHSS and Public Authority issues;
- 5. Provide a forum for consumers and providers of personal assistance services, advocates and other interested parties to participate in IHSS policy and program development.

Meetings dates, time, and location

The IHSS Advisory Commission meets on the fourth Friday of every month from 1:00-3:00PM at 1400 Emeline AVE., Santa Cruz, in Room 206. Due to ongoing recommendations from the local health department, the commission met virtually via teleconference for all its meetings in 2022. The commission does not meet in the months of July and December.

Commission Structure

The Commission comprises no more than 11 members, of which a majority must be current or former users of personal assistance services paid for through public or private funds. The remaining slots include: two current for former providers of In-Home Supportive Services; and three at-large members from any of the following: a representative of an organization that advocates for people with disabilities or seniors and/or a representative who also concurrently holds a seat on either the Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission or the Commission on Disabilities.

Currently, there are two vacancies that the commission is seeking to fill. These vacancies are comprised of one former or current user of personal assistance services and one representative of an organization that advocates for people with disabilities or seniors.

Commission staff

The IHSS Advisory Commission is staffed by the Public Authority, under the auspices of the Human Services Department. Staff from the IHSS Program attend each meeting.

Attendance 2022 and 2023

The attendance charts for 2022 and 2023 are attached.

Goals and Accomplishments

During 2022 and 2023, the IHSS Advisory Commission:

- Hosted the following guest speakers: Max Umney from the County's Master Shelter Plan,
 Matthew Sundt from the County's Housing Element Update, Jim Lyons and Angela
 Millhouse from the Central California Alliance for Health, Yesenia Cerna from the County's
 Human Services Department, Grecia Quintero and Ivette Vazquez from the San Andreas
 Regional Center and Rita Sanchez from the County Administrative Office.
- 2. Welcomed two new commission members: Rebecca Jordan (relative of consumer) and Christine Kiebert-Boss (consumer).
- 3. Kept informed of state budget issues by California Association of Public Authorities advocates.
- 4. Received updates of the State Olmstead Advisory Board as relevant.
- 5. Collaborated with the Health Projects Center to develop training curriculum for IHSS care providers.
- 6. Monitored the impact of the COVID-19 health related issues on IHSS recipients and care providers.
- 7. Transitioned from remote meetings to in-person meetings due to the end of the public health emergency.
- 8. Kept informed on the Master Plan on Aging (MPA).
- 9. Successfully implemented disaster protocols due to local fire and flood disasters.
- 10. Continued providing ongoing input to IHSS Public Authority staff for posting relevant and educational information on the IHSS Public Authority website.
- 11. Shared information with Seniors Commission and Commissions on Disabilities.
- 12. Subcommittees monitored activity in the areas of interest to IHSS recipients and providers.
- 13. Performed ongoing work to fill the remaining vacancies in the commission.

Future Goals

The goals of the IHSS Advisory Commission include the following:

IHSS Advisory Commission 2022-2023 Report

- 1. Participate in Public Authority Registry recruitment efforts. Particularly providers willing to work in Santa Cruz and San Lorenzo Valley and/or willing and able to provide care for high needs clients.
- 2. Develop recommendations for improved provider recruitment strategies.
- 3. Promote ongoing education of IHSS for consumers, care providers and the community.
- 4. Work collaboratively with the Health Projects Center to develop training curriculum for IHSS providers.
- 5. Participate in the development of enhanced supports for IHSS recipients and care providers.
- 6. Continue to monitor payroll activity to assure providers are being paid timely.
- 7. Monitor the ongoing use of the Electronic Visit Verification requirement for IHSS and its impact on consumers and providers.
- 8. Increase collaboration with the local labor organization.
- 9. Network with community-based organizations and other commissions to solve issues that affect IHSS and related services.
- 10. Hold IHSS Advisory Commission meetings in south and north-county locations.
- 11. Work collaboratively with partner agencies and commissions on improving disaster planning and emergency preparedness.
- 12. Identify community resources that IHSS consumers and providers can access in emergency situations.
- 13. The commission will seek to resume the Caring Community Summit, as it becomes feasible.
- 14. Resume new commissioner orientation and conduct annual refreshers for existing commissioners.
- 15. Advocate for fall prevention and supports in the home of all recipients of IHSS.
- 16. Establish a relationship with the Office of Emergency Services.
- 17. Advocate for increased wages for IHSS care providers.
- 18. Connect with Central California Alliance for Health to better understand the services offered under the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) program.
- 19. Gain a better understanding of available resources for IHSS consumers and care providers.

Recommendations

Recommendations from the IHSS Advisory Commission include the following:

- 1. Advocate for mixed housing with caregivers to support integrated caregiver and community planning.
- 2. Advocate for a living wage for caregivers so they can remain in our community.
- 3. Advocate for the county to develop a comprehensive emergency preparedness program.

IHSS Advisory Commission 2022-2023 Report

- 4. Explore the feasibility of an agency-based (Contract Mode) IHSS system in Santa Cruz County.
- 5. Advocate for the needs of IHSS recipients and caregivers to be included in plans when developing the MPA.

2022 Attendance

IHSS Advisory Commission													
2022 Attendance Roster													
Name	Affiliation	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Apr*	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec*
Lois Sones	Seniors Commission	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Х	Х	С	Χ	Χ	С	С	X
Becky Taylor	Commission on Disabilities	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Х	Χ	С	Е	Χ	С	Χ	X
Vacant	Rep of Advocate Agency	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Foster Andersen	Consumer	Χ	Х	Е	Е	E	Χ	С	Χ	Χ	С	С	X
Michael Molesky	Consumer	Е	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	С	Χ	Е	С	С	X
Linda Campbell	Consumer	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	X	Χ	С	Χ	Χ	С	С	X
Jozett Irgang	Consumer	Χ	Χ	Χ	Α	E	Χ	С	Χ	Χ	С	С	Α
Vacant	Consumer	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Vacant	Consumer	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maria Arreola	Provider	Χ	Χ	Χ	Е	Е	Χ	С	Χ	Χ	С	O	X
Patricia Fohrman	Provider	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	С	Χ	Α	С	C	X

^{*}Special Meeting

Key: X = Present

E = Excused A = Absent R = Resigned

n/a = Not yet appointedC = meeting cancelled

2023 Attendance

IHSS Advisory Commission 2023 Attendance Roster											
Name	Affiliation	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Lois Sones	Seniors Commission	Х	Х	Е	С	Е	Χ	X	Х	Х	Χ
Becky Taylor	Commission on Disabilities	Х	Х	E	С	Х	E	Х	Х	Х	Е
Vacant	Rep of Advocate Agency							n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rebecca Jordan	Family Member of Consumer	Х	Х	X	С	X	Х	R	R	R	R
Foster Andersen	Consumer	Χ	Χ	Е	С	Е	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	E
Michael Molesky	Consumer	Χ	Χ	Χ	С	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Е	Е
Linda Campbell	Consumer	Χ	Χ	Χ	С	Χ	Ε	Χ	Χ	Ε	Χ
Jozett Irgang	Consumer	Χ	Χ	Χ	С	Е	Χ	Χ	Χ	Е	Х
Christine Kiebert-Boss	Consumer	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Х	Х	Х	Х
Vacant	Consumer	n/a									
Maria Arreola	Provider	Х	Х	Е	С	Χ	Χ	Χ	Е	Х	Χ
Patricia Fohrman	Provider	Х	А	Х	С	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х

Key: X = Present

E = Excused A = Absent R = Resigned

n/a = Not yet appointedC = meeting cancelled

IHSS Advisory Co			Budget	\$5,995.93
Annual Bu			Used	\$450.00
FY 25-26			Balance	\$5,545.93
Invoice Date Exper		<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payment Date</u>	
7/31/2025 Q4 Stipend			9/5/2025	
8/2/2025 Q4 Stipend		150.00	9/8/2025	
9/17/2025 Q4 Stipend	ds \$	150.00	9/17/2025	
			_	
	\$	450.00		



STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER GOVERNOR

August 8, 2008

COUNTY FISCAL LETTER (CFL) 08/09-10

TO:

COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

IHSS PROGRAM MANAGERS
IHSS PUBLIC AUTHORITIES
COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS

SUBJECT:

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY

COMMITTEE EXPENDITURES

REFERENCE:

CFL NO. 00/01-48 DATED DECEMBER 22, 2000; CFL NO. 06/07-02

DATED JULY 7, 2006

This CFL is to remind counties that funding is allocated each fiscal year specifically for the direct support of the IHSS Advisory Committees. The authority for and the functions of the IHSS Advisory Committees are established in Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 12301.3 and 12301.4. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide ongoing advice and recommendations regarding IHSS to the county board of supervisors, or any administrative body in the county that is related to the delivery and administration of IHSS.

Funds appropriated for the IHSS Advisory Committees are made available for the Committee's use, provided that those expenditures are used as intended under state statute and meet the federal requirements for the use of Title XIX funds, and in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-87. The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services concur with the California Department of Social Services on the use of Title XIX funds for the administrative expenditures listed below. Administrative costs are defined by the Manual of Policies and Procedures Section 25-200.2 as "only those expenditures which are properly claimable and necessary to efficient administration." As with all county expenditures, funds must be approved by the local Board of Supervisors.

Acceptable Advisory Committee expenditures include:

- Postage and general office supplies
- Cost of photocopying/printing
- Phones and phone conferencing equipment, computers, office furniture, office/room rental
- Internet access and website maintenance
- Special equipment for the deaf/hearing impaired
- Readers and/or alternate formats (e.g., Braille)
- Translation/interpreter services
- Compensation to attendants for members participating in meetings

- · Stipends, travel, mileage, parking fees
- Training on Advisory Committee responsibilities and duties
- Conference registration fees
- Meeting facilitator
- Costs to conduct surveys
- Staff time in support of the Advisory Committee
- Membership dues to state or federal organizations
- Newsletters
- Resource Fairs/Outreach
- Advertisement to recruit for committee vacancies or improve participation

Unacceptable Advisory Committee Expenditures

Assembly Bill 1682 established the formation of Advisory Committees specifically to provide ongoing advice and recommendations to the county regarding the provision of IHSS. It was not intended to provide for any direct services or benefits to consumers such as attendant services not directly related to the Advisory Committee, or training for providers or consumers. In addition, OMB Circular A-87 prohibits the use of federal funds for provider recognition events or items such as small gifts, key chains, coffee mugs, or meals. While the procedures counties employ to review and approve expenditures are at each county's discretion, all costs claimed on the County Expense Claim are subject to OMB Circular A-87 principles which mandate that all costs be necessary and reasonable for the administration of the program.

Claiming

Program Code (PC) 023 captures costs associated with the IHSS Advisory Committees and are tracked against the total IHSS allocation. Costs claimed to this code must be in accordance with allowable activities defined in this CFL. IHSS Advisory Committee expenditures must not be claimed to PC 025, IHSS Advisory Committee San Diego only, as this is no longer a valid program code.

If you have any questions regarding this CFL, please direct them to the Fiscal Systems Bureau electronic mailbox at fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

ERIC FUJII
Deputy Director
Administration Division

c: CWDA



