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Advisory Committee on IHSS Meeting

6955 Foothill Blvd. Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94605

July 1st, 2021 at 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

[Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/99787994593](https://zoom.us/j/99787994593)

Dial +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: **997 8799 4593**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Sandra Johnson (*Chair*), Warren Cushman, Pamela Jacob and Shawn Costello

Public Authority Staff Present: Marcella Velasquez (*PA Executive Director*)

AAS/IHSS Staff Present: Faith M. Battles (*AAS Assistant Agency Director*) and Everett Robinson

AAS/IHSS Staff Excused/Absent: Dani Coggins

Guest/Public Present: Jesus Rodriguez (SEIU)

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Advisory Committee (AC) Chair Sandra Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm then followed by self-introductions.

II. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes

A. Agenda Additions and/or Revisions – Motion to approve the April 1st, 2021 agenda as presented.

(Motioned) Warren Cushman

(Seconded) Pamela Jacob

No additions. Motion approved.

B. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes of April 1st, 2021 meeting as presented.

(Motioned) Warren Cushman

(Seconded) Pamela Jacob

Motion approved.

III. Adult & Aging Services (AAS) Updates (Faith M. Battles)

COVID-19 Updates

1. State of California has reopened
2. Restrictions has been lifted, no masks most places
3. Fully vaccinated does not have to wear masks as often
4. Social Distancing requirement lifted
5. Emergency orders will expire if not already, continue to maintain emergency order capacity should covid-19 change in months to come
6. Alameda County – continues to require masks for County Workers and individuals to receive services
7. County Workers - have not returned to work from stay-at-home order; require discussion with Labor organization; status quo

8. Commissions & The Brown Acts – BOS continues to not allow public present in chambers for meetings; Commission meetings continues virtually until BOS feedback, maybe after Fall
9. No spike in COVID-19
10. Staffing – continue to have impacts to our staff; individuals are not in school or day programs because staff who assists are not able to perform duties as usual due to COVID-19; good amount of staff are able to assist, especially intake of IHSS SW staff that are on leave
11. SPSL – will expire on 9/30/21 expect more staff at work
12. School districts will open in Fall and vaccines available for students
13. Looking to Hire – small class of IHSS SW 7/12 start; still recruiting, and continuing to hire
14. State Budget – passed, positive outcomes for Adult & Aging population
 - a. County Welfare Directors Association supported funding for APS and IHSS, funding approved
 - b. Outstanding legislation that has caught up in trailer bills; language has not been applied that we are waiting to hear feedback
 - c. Biggest impact - APS has gotten additional funding able to support the Home Safe Program which allows us to spend money help older adults and dependent adults to stay in their homes with tangible funds (home cleaned out, pay for treatment facility)
 - d. APS will serve individuals 60 and up begin in 2022
 - e. Medi-cal – for any person 50 and up regardless of immigration status will become law; for our department that means more individuals that can apply for IHSS due to having full scope Medi-cal; APS more investigations or referrals made for individuals that are younger than before; more hiring
 - f. IHSS in June much higher this year than last year
15. County meeting expectations for reopening mark and vaccines
16. Vaccines continue availability
17. PHD – how many home bound residents need vaccines

IV. Public Authority (PA) Updates

A. Registry Update (Everett Robinson)

1. PA experiencing staffing impact
2. Registry update:
 - a. 2nd quarter, April to June
 - b. Active Providers 848
 - c. PA registry calls 5804
 - d. Registry matches 131
 - e. Emergency back up 0
3. Call Purpose:
 - a. Call centers take calls from recipients or providers, combination of reasons people calls
 - b. If it is broken down (complaints, inquires, etc.) general information, looking for care
 - c. The clients that must call in and submit their providers timesheets, and must call in and verify timekeeping
 - d. To distinguish, PA calls and payroll are 2 different phone numbers (577-1877 is Payroll call center number)
 - e. 5800 calls in that short period of time and is a wealth of research for the PA to determine where the constant requests or complaints are coming from; how they are being serviced etc.
 - f. Registry staff have a database to track, and match the provider and clients; information consistently updated

4. Effective July 5, 160 covered providers (consistent number last month June 5,881) Generally, last 6 months 5,800-900; stable

B. Health Benefits (Marcella Velasquez)

1. Effective July 5,160 covered providers (consistent number last month June 5,881)
2. Last 6 months 5,800-900; stable
3. New Federal Legislation out of the COVID pandemic: if provider loses their health benefits, they are eligible for COBRA, typically paid out of pocket. We have a vendor (TASC) that manages Cal COBRA and handle all the transactions between the provider and health carriers. But this Federal Legislation, will subsidize (at no cost to the participant), if they elect COBRA and it went retroactive to April 1st and extend to Sept. 30. All covered providers, who were eligible for COBRA, were sent a notice. As of today, we have 2 people who elected to take advantage of the federal subsidy for COBRA and we will continue to track and monitor that, where the federal government will pick up the costs of their COBRA payments for them should they elect COBRA

C. Training (Marcella Velasquez)

Training Manager:

1. We lost Ms. Hyun (Stellie) Kim, who has resigned
2. Currently, no Training Manager but we go through efforts of hiring; civil service and will take a while
3. Limits ability of robust Trainings; continuing with classes until new hiring manager
4. For July we have 4 classes: Nutrition and Healthy Eating, Blood Pressure and Stroke, Financial Wellness and Dental Health; continuing to schedule classes taught by vendors, as much as we are able; Classes held via Zoom
5. Will post to the website; can send the schedule
 - a. *“As part of some of the training they have had, I would love to help with the training of the care givers. Informing them the do’s and don’ts with their clients. A lot of them do not have a lot of patience.”*
 - b. *“The consumer training is important. The synergy can really help both consumer and provider. We have had previous discussions around this and it was positive and, I recognize constraint from no training manager, but I would like to be a part of that conversation so we can bring back the consumer flavor to the training process. I think that was valuable and it worked for both team managers and the providers as a consumer.”*

V. Recruitment

Advisory Committee Members

1. Sandra Johnson and Pam Jacob term ends on 12/31/21
2. 2 More vacancies on our committee
3. Get some people on the committee
4. New applicants:
 - a. Rafe Eric Biggs, interviewed; recipient under the age 60
 - b. Sylvia Stadmire applied for Senior Advocate Position on committee, needs interview for vote in at next meeting
5. Motion to Approve Rafe Eric Biggs as Member, Consumer under 60 – Move by Warren, Second by Pam, Shawn; Motion is approved.

VI. Other Discussion Items

A. IHSS State Audit

1. Additional questions: The overall recommendations are recipients getting services in a timely manner. It also talks about submitting a plan on how they administer the program at the local level and deliver services, but no counties are submitting a plan. The recommendation is to have a plan to enhance the delivery service.
2. Response: Public Authorities/IHSS is currently not legally required to produce that plan. It has not been put into law. It was a recommendation.
3. No additional updates to the audit findings.

B. COVID-19 Vaccine Update for Providers / Recipients

1. Faith M. Battles had already addressed this topic.

C. CICA Membership Report and Additional Rep (Warren Cushman)

1. 7% cut was always something that was hanging over us for many years, is now off the table. According to the person that does the budgeting, that is no longer the case
2. The budget items are in trailer bills and we're not. We are not clear yet on what some of the final trailer bills of the budget are. There should be some money for training in this in this budget.
3. Counties having to pay more money than they ordinarily would have to pay has been eliminated. So, the counties are secure now and they don't, at least for the next year or two. They don't have to pay more than they ordinarily having to pay so it seems like we're doing well with the budget and that was a major part of CICA.
 - a. *"In terms of the training issue that you brought up, the proposal for who will be responsible for delivering the training and how it will be tracked and who will be for attending the training, there is no agreement around that. The County Welfare Directors Association and the Public Authority Association etc., do not agree with the proposal that's on the table around that particular training, so we'll see what happens in the end if they can negotiate away from that but as it exists, there's no agreement on that in that trailer bill should resolve that."*
4. The proposal/process put by the Governor to exempt meetings like the Advisory Committee (should be meeting in person) to meet by phone/virtually was challenged by the court, but there is no ruling yet. The concern was that all meetings must be done in person.
5. There has been new legislation introduced. The goal is to modernize the Brown Act to have options to holding meetings specially during emergencies such as COVID. Three bills have been proposed (i.e. Public conferencing via teleconference) but there were bills that were opposed by CAPA; closed captioning for all participants if they are calling in, and translation services during the meeting.

D. SEIU Rep (Jesus Rodriguez)

- a. It is very important for me to be here
- b. Working on the campaign especially at this time, on how to create our portfolio for Home Care of IHSS how to bring more resources to the place. Especially, with our role to get the American Job plan \$400 billion, including the home care
- c. SEIU have been working on big action in Oakland starting 7/13
- d. This is a very important meeting on how to have more accessible home care and IHSS
- e. Our work in the field with providers, lack of communication with the SW
- f. The families desperate to speak with the SW; mailboxes are full
- g. Very hard to communicate with SW with issues that they have (Jesus & Brenda work with Alameda County)
- h. We notice that separation; look into seeing how to have a point person dealing with this type of situation and improve the services for the families
- i. Is it possible? And how to provide this service to the community
- j. Engage in Training classes

- k. Providers can take the opportunity to learn more
- l. See how to work together

VII. Action Items

A. Next Advisory Committee Meeting

1. Next meeting will be on Thursday, October 7th, 2021.

VIII. Public Input (Time Limit: 3 minutes per speaker)

No Public Speaker

IX. Adjourn

Move to adjourn meeting.

(Motioned) Warren Cushman

(Seconded) Pamela Jacob

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:16 pm.