



6955 Foothill Blvd., 3rd Floor
Oakland, CA 94605-2409
phone (510) 577-3552
fax (510) 577-3579
www.ac-pa4ihss.org

Advisory Committee on IHSS Meeting
July 14, 2022 at 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Via Zoom Meeting
[https:// us06web.zoom.us/j/83800841992](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83800841992)
Dial +1 669 219 2599 US
Meeting ID: 838 0084 1992

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Warren Cushman, L. Shay Roberson, Rafe Biggs, and Hannah Karpilow.

Committee Members (Absent): Shawn Costello

AAS/IHSS Staff Present: Faith M. Battles - Assistant Agency Director, Everett Robinson - Supervising Clerk III, Tara Miller - Department Secretary, and Ericka Medina – IHSS Division Secretary

Public Authority Staff Present: Sandra Pearson - Supervising Administrative Specialist, Mitzi Richardson - Administrative Specialist, Christine Morgan - Administrative Specialist, Emily Vo Administrative - Specialist, and Marc Nolasco - Supervising Clerk II

AAS/IHSS/Public Authority Staff Excused (Absent):
Nicole Hayes – Public Authority Executive Director

Guest (Public): Nica of AIWA, Carol Crooks

I. Call to Order & Introductions -

AC Chair Warren called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm and called for participant introductions.

Read Statement of Findings
(Motioned) Shay Motion
(Seconded) Hannah Karpilow
*Motion approved.

II. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes

A. Review of Agenda – Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

(Motioned) Hannah Karpilow
(Seconded) L. Shay Roberson
*Motion approved.

B. Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 3, 2022 as presented.

(Motioned) L. Shay Roberson
(Seconded) Rafe Eric Biggs
*No corrections. Motion approved.

Review Meeting Structure –

- The Bylaws state the Committee Chair may change speaking allotment to a reasonable amount of time. The standard is 3 minutes.
- The general public is anyone who is not a member of the committee.

The general public may comment on Items not covered on agenda during the public input section, there is a 3-minute time limit.

The general public can comment on any agenda item.

The role of the Public Authority Executive Director or Assistant Agency Director is to ensure no rules are violated

The 3-minute limit is for each agenda item. Secretary will keep the time.

III. Adult & Aging Services (AAS) Updates

COVID-19 Update presented by Faith M. Battles

- COVID-19 is running rampant with a new variant of Omicron that is highly contagious. Our Department employees are not contracting COVID from work, and it is being spread in the community. Our employees are required to wear an N95 mask when going into the home and to meet with consumers. Community members visiting County buildings are required to wear face coverings as well. In the event an employee tests positive for COVID the County's team of Contact Tracers fully vets them regarding onset of symptoms, type of symptoms, who they may have been in close contact with and dates and results of any COVID tests. We do not disclose the identity of employees who have contacted COVID due to confidentiality issues. If a team member tests positive, we will notify those who may have been in contact with our employee during their infections period and suggest they follow guidance for quarantining and testing.
- In Alameda County, hospital stays are on the rise and deaths do not appear to be following the same trend. We have encouraged our staff to get the second booster. Every Alameda County employee has to comply with the County's vaccination policy which requires employees share their vaccination status and submit to weekly COVID testing if they are not vaccinated and have not been exempted from weekly testing.
- If an IHSS Provider needs Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) of any kind, they should come to the Department lobby and request the supplies. Share this information with your consumers or providers that you are working with.

Legislative / Budget Update:

California State final budget was enacted on June 30 for 2022 -23 fiscal year.

In Adult and Aging we are interested in budgets and legislative items that can impact adults over 60 and disabled adults. The Governor has 5 big goals for the Master Plan of Aging and the budget included the following funding in each category:

Goal 1: Housing for all ages and stages - \$31.8M over 3 years for re-entry housing for parolees. This is important as 20% of the re-entry population in the state is 50 or over and majority are people of color.
\$53.9M to modernize the older American act.

Goal 2 : Health Reimagined – Proposes to reform Medicare share cost in 2025, so that aging adults do not have to spend over 60% of their income on health care. This year Medi-Cal full scope is available to adults 50 and over regardless of immigration status. This

affects Adult protective services and specifically IHSS. \$34.4M in ongoing funding to establish a permanent back up system provider for IHSS recipients.

Goal 3: Inclusion & Equity, not Isolation - providing new funding to Community Based Adult Service providers who provide key resources for older adults to stay in the community. There is also funding for protection from abuse and exploitation.

Goal 4: Caregiving that works – Investments in the state’s workforce, including some funding that supports providers who care for older adults and people with disabilities Workforce develop Behavior & Public Health. This includes retention payments

Goal 5: Affordable Aging – Rescinds recession cuts to Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/ State Supplementary Payment (SSP). California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)/ CalFresh will expand to Californians 55 and older regardless of immigration status.

- The total budget for the County’s Department of Adult & Aging Services is \$ 218M. Workforce and Benefits Administration is the largest department, Children & Families is the second largest department, to further demonstrate the demand for the services of the Department in the community. 39% of the Department’s funding is for salary and employee benefits. \$4.2M is for the IHSS and the Public Authority alone..
- The Department’s funding includes 48% from the state, 34% from the federal government, and the rest is from other revenues.
- IHSS is huge part of the County’s budget. The IHSS Maintenance of Effort (MOE) expects to spend \$4.3M on IHSS Provider wages and benefits and fraud investigation.
- Our budget continues to grow, we grew 6.5% this year and will probably grow more

Question from Warren: Will the backup provider system come from the state or county?
Response from Faith: The State will lay out the permanent requirements for the backup provider system. The backup provider system was put in place during the pandemic.

-Action Item-

**Saundra Pearson will share backup provider data with committee.
Faith Battles will share budget notes**

IV. Public Authority (PA) Updates

Registry Update presented by Marc Nolasco

- In June 2022 there were 1,148 registry calls
- We added 13 new IHSS Providers to the registry
- There were 956 active IHSS Providers in the registry

Hannah comments: We should implement a system that documents if recipients obtained a provider from the registry. Is there any record or numbers regarding actual matches made?

Public Authority manages the registry which is shared with the consumers. We don’t receive calls about whether a match was made.

Training Update presented by Mitzi Richardson

- We have 10 trainings on the July 2022 calendar.
- A highlight was Daniela Langua a lawyer, who presented on estate planning.
- Another highlight was Jennifer Pardini from Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS) Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP), who presented a training on navigating health care systems and legal matters.
- In August we will have 11 more trainings including Care Partners will teach medication safety in English & Spanish. Also, Healthy living for brain and body, in Cantonese, English & Spanish.
- We also continue to work on provider recruitment and sent out flyers and applications to South County. The flyer has been translated into Hindi, Farsi, Spanish, and Cantonese that we will send out to entire county for provider recruitment.
- We have a recruitment event in Fremont on July 26, 2022.

Question from Warren: What happens when someone has a question in training?

Mitzi: Varies depending on training. Held to end, or some interact. Most trainers give out their contact information.

Comment from Committee Members: We would like to bring some human historical relevance to the work providers are doing. We would like to meet more than quarterly.

Mitzi responds that we have Ava Gardner, who quarterly presents to providers on compassionate care creating and independence for consumer.

Health Benefits Update presented by Christine Morgan

- There were 332 Health benefits calls
- Currently running an average of 5,017 Providers on our health benefits plan.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Distribution Update presented by Emily Vo

- PPE is available in the lobby to providers and consumers.
- We continue to give out kits that contain masks, sanitizer, and gloves of all sizes as well as surgical, N95 and Cloth Masks
- We encourage our providers and consumers to keep using PPE.
- Public Authority uses our mass notification system to tell people about the PPE kits.

V. Recruitment

A. New AC Member – Any new applications received ? No.

Warren will not establish a recruitment committee at this time.

Hannah would like to propose that all committee members participant in the subcommittee.

Mr. Costello is absent

Subcommittee –By-Laws Committee.

Suggestion presented by Hannah to amend the bylaws as followed:

3.3.2 Change He or She to: They

An individual shall not be a member until they execute any documents required by the Board or

Public Authority. Any delay by the Board, Advisory Committee, or Public Authority completing the appointment of a member shall not extend the term to which an individual is appointed.

3.3.3 Amend the term limits for Advisory Committee members

The end of the term for an Advisory Committee member shall be any of the following:

“No member may serve more than four consecutive or non-sequential terms, or a maximum of eight years, unless there are no candidates to take their place. If the Committee is not filled to capacity, then any member may apply for additional unlimited terms and can maintain their position on the Committee as long as there is no opposition from the Committee members.”

Faith and Nicole would like to look at the recommendation

VI. Other Discussion Items

- **CICA** – Budget ask did not go thru and there are no funding increases this year. They had a legislative training this year. There has not been any legislative action.
- **Question from Warren:** When are the CICA dues due? The County will follow up on that ask.
- **Emergency Preparedness** – Warren Cushman
- What is expected of Social Workers in an emergency? What are the criteria of follow up? In general, every county worker is a disaster worker. Social Workers for IHSS are responsible for getting in touch with our most vulnerable clients. Those who need machines to survive are a good example of the clients we pay close attention to in a disaster. Social Services Agency (SSA) is responsible for care and support in the County in an event. We set up delivery of food and shelter.
- What about transportation ? SSA is not responsible for transportation as that responsibility rests with each individual city.
- What is the difference between the role of law enforcement and Social Services ? How do they work together?
- The Alameda County Sherriff Office acknowledges that there is an emergency, they coordinate the services of the County and bring the relevant agencies together for a coordinated response..
- Have we learned a lesson about emergency response since Covid? Good question! This is the first time we have had to deal with a pandemic in our natural lives. One of the huge lessons we learned was dealing with the supply chain. It was challenging to get PPE in the beginning of the pandemic. We learned how to stock up and over prepare.
- Warren would like to get more involved in emergency preparedness.

VII. Action Items

- **A. Next AC-IHSS Meeting** – October 6, 2022. If any items need to be placed on the agenda, please let Warren Cushman know.

VIII. Public Input (Time Limit: 3 minutes per speaker) at 2:56 PM

- Comment from NICA: Thanks for making space for Chinese trainings. On behalf of AIWA looking forward to more Mandarin trainings and other IHSS Chinese trainings
- Comment from Carol Crooks : Listening and trying to get a feel for what is going on.

I was impressed. I am a IHSS Recipient over 65 years old.

IX. Adjourn

Move to adjourn meeting

*(Motioned) Warren Cushman

*(Seconded) Hannah Karpilow

*Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:01 pm.