



County of Alameda Adult & Aging Services
 Advisory Committee on In-Home Supportive Services
 6955 Foothill Boulevard, Suite 300
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 Phone: (510) 577-3552
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<https://www.alamedacountysocialservices.org/>

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE:
 IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
 MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday October 2nd, 2025
 1:30 pm-3:30 pm**

Eastmont Town Center Maxwell Park Conference Room or via Zoom:

- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/878341947085>
- Meeting ID: 878 3419

<p><u>Advisory Committee Members Present</u> Hannah Karpilow Diane Powers Karen J. Ridley Christina Leffman</p> <p><u>Committee Members Absent</u> Shawn Costello Carol Crooks</p>	<p><u>County of Alameda Staff Present</u> Nicole Hayes Sandra Pearson Everett Robinson William Tutol Cynthia Byrd Victoria Botts Emily Vo Faith M. Battles</p>
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Item	Discussion / Recommendations
A. Call to Order	Meeting called to order by Hannah Karpilow at 1:35 PM. A Quorum confirmed



<p>B. Consent Calendar</p>	<p>(1) Review and approval of minutes: One minor correction made and minutes approved with the correction</p> <p>(2) Motion to Approve minutes: Hannah Karpilow</p> <p>(3) Motion Seconded: Diane Powers</p> <p>(4) Quorum Confirmed: Motion Passed Unanimously</p>
<p>C. Nicole Hayes, Program Updates</p>	<p>Updates Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telehealth reassessments have been implemented statewide. Questionnaires are sent through the Electronic Services Portal to determine recipient’s eligibility and preference for video or phone reassessments. • Approximately 500 questionnaires are sent monthly. • Recipients have 14 days to respond per State requirements. • Response rates remain very low. • If no response is received, reassessments default to in-person. • Committee members expressed concern that the 14-day window is insufficient, as many recipients only access the portal near payroll deadlines. • Staff acknowledged the feedback and will explore additional outreach during early implementation. • Community First Choice (CFC): Staff reported ongoing challenges with overdue reassessments and fiscal penalties tied to processing delays.



D. Saundra Pearson
Registry and Training
Updates

Training: The October training calendar has been posted to the website and distributed to partners.

Registry Metrics (July–September)

- Average referrals generated: 370 per quarter
- Average recipients served: 305
- Differences attributed to hospitalization, family support, provider availability, or recipients declining registry services
- Average providers referred: 328
- Average registry applications: 272
- Average new registry providers: 92
- Active registry providers remain stable at approximately 2,200

Database Transition (Nexus to BOUNDJUMP)

- Staff reported that BOUNDJUMP produces the same outcomes as Nexus.
- No significant differences were identified in registry list generation or data outputs.
- Staff continue training and system familiarization.

Labor Update – SEIU 2015 Memorandum of Understanding

- Staff reported that the SEIU 2015 MOU was approved on September 8.
Key highlights:
- Wage increases:
 1. *December 1, 2025: increase to \$21.26/hour*
 2. *January 1, 2026: additional \$0.50 increase tied to state minimum wage*
 3. *July 1, 2026: additional \$0.50 increase*
 4. *July 1, 2027: additional \$0.42 increase*
- Contract term through September 30, 2027
- Health benefits unchanged (minimum 80 paid hours)
- PPE expanded to include disposable gowns
- Continued focus on professional development and training
- Committee members noted these increases support provider recruitment and retention.



<p>E. Faith Battles Fragrance Free Policy and Legislative/Budget Updates</p>	<p>Current Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3,600 providers identify as fragrance-free• 1,800 active providers• 1,700 available for additional clients• 441 consumers request fragrance-free providers <p>Effective September 11, 2025, the Department implemented a revised screening script to identify IHSS Providers that may be suitable for fragrance-free IHSS service provision. The script below is used when conducting screening :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fragrance Awareness “Are you able to work in a fragrance-free environment, meaning no use of scented products such as perfumes, colognes, body sprays, or strongly scented lotions?”2. Product Use “Do you currently use scented laundry detergents, fabric softeners, deodorants, or hair products, and would you be willing to switch to unscented products while working with an IHSS Client?”3. Home Environment “Are you comfortable ensuring that you do not bring fragrances from your home or car (like air fresheners, incense, or strongly scented cleaning products) into an IHSS Client’s home?”4. Health & Comfort “Do you have any allergies, sensitivities, or health concerns that would make it difficult for you to avoid scented products?”5. Consistency & Flexibility “Would you be able to consistently follow fragrance-free guidelines for every visit with an IHSS Client?” <p>County Budget & Measure W</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The county budget has been finalized.• Measure W is a voter-approved initiative that set aside a ½-cent revenue stream dedicated to homelessness, housing insecurity, and substance abuse services.• Measure W was delayed by litigation but ultimately upheld; the county now has approximately \$800 million to allocate.• Measure W funds span 10 years, totaling close to \$1 billion over that period.
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Approved Spending Categories

The Board of Supervisors agreed funds will be used in three broad areas:

1. Housing & Homelessness Prevention (largest share)
2. Essential Services (e.g., food, utilities, public safety)
3. Prudent Reserve (emergency savings)

Immediate Allocations

- \$2 million to Senior Nutrition programs (AAA) to replace expired COVID funding.
- Approximately \$400,000 to the Food Bank due to increased demand.
- Remaining funds have not yet been specifically allocated.

Oversight & Accountability

- The Board of Supervisors has final approval authority.
- An Oversight Committee will monitor outcomes and spending.
- Committee members will include professionals, service providers, and potentially people with lived experience of homelessness or housing insecurity.
- Regular reporting and data review are required.
- Public comment is strongly encouraged at Board meetings (Tuesdays at 10 a.m., with afternoon sessions as well).

Federal Budget (HR1) – Impacts on Clients

The federal bill HR1, passed July 4, introduces significant changes affecting food and health benefits.

CalFresh (SNAP)

- Eliminates eligibility for refugees, asylees, and certain immigrant statuses.
- Ends SNAP nutrition education funding starting immediately.
- Expands work requirements to include:
 - Adults with children age 14+
 - Adults age 55–64
 - Veterans
 - People experiencing homelessness
 - Former foster youth
- Individuals must work, volunteer, or attend school, with limited exemptions (details pending).
- Increased administrative burden on counties is expected.



	<p>Medi-Cal / Medicaid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrictions on new provider taxes and state-directed payment rates. • Prohibition on Medicaid funding to abortion-providing entities for one year (effective July 4). • Limits federal funding for immigrant health coverage starting October 1, 2026. • Redeterminations every 6 months beginning January 1, 2027. • Mandatory cost-sharing for some adults starting October 1, 2028. • These changes are expected to increase loss of coverage and county workload. <p>Brown Act / Virtual Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation to relax Brown Act rules (allowing more virtual participation) is pending the Governor’s signature. • Updates will be shared once a decision is made.
<p>F. Announcements and Upcoming Events</p>	<p>Advisory Committee National Family Caregivers Month / Provider Appreciation Resource Fair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date: Thursday, November 13 • Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (setup beginning at approximately 9:00 AM) • Location: Larger upstairs conference room <p>The Advisory Committee will host a table to provide information on the committee.</p> <p>Participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diane Powers confirmed participation (morning shift). • Additional coverage to be coordinated. <p>Event details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation sent to all providers on a first-come, first-serve basis • Attendance capped at approximately 500 participants • Events include lunch, health screenings, and resource vendors



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<p>G. Other Items</p>	<p>Other Discussion Items Information was shared regarding upcoming advocacy training and potential funding opportunities related to disability and HCBS systems. Materials will be forwarded to staff for review and distribution as appropriate.</p> <p>Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add Chair selection and voting to the next meeting agenda • Confirm next meeting date: Thursday, January 15 • Coordinate Advisory Committee staffing for November event
<p>H. Public Input (3 Minute Time Limit)</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>I. Adjournment</p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.</p>