

IHSS Public Authority Advisory Board Meeting
January 19, 2010
MINUTES

Members Present: Bharat Desai, Cindy Faulkner (via tele-conference), JoAnn Disbrow, Kai Lu, Janie Whiteford, Richard Patterson, Jim Ramoni (ex-officio)

Members Absent: Sondra Corday, Elissa Young, Theresa Wright, Potential AB Member, Brian Miller, Potential AB Member and Director of NAMI

COA Staff Present: Leticia Sabadin, Mary Tinker

Guests Present: Daisy Chu, Policy Aide from Supervisor George Shirakawa's Office, Ellen Rollins, Potential AB Member, Merina Yeung, Internal Organizer from the SEIU Local 521 Union Office, Mandy Lu, Internal Organizer from the SEIU Local 521 Union Office

Approve Minutes: December 2009 Minutes were approved as written.

Announcements & Public Comment: Mary Tinker provided an update on the four vacant Advisory Board positions:

- Elissa Young, submitted her application for appointment, it has been processed and confirmed at the January 12th Board of Supervisors meeting, Ms. Young was appointed by Supervisor Shirakawa - District 2 (nominee is an advocate for seniors and people with disabilities)
- Brian Miller, **Application for Appointment in process**
- Theresa Wright, **Application for Appointment in process**
- Ellen Rollins, **Application for Appointment in process**

CAPA Report: Mary Tinker reported CAPA met December 3rd in Sacramento.

State staff who participated in a portion of the meeting announced there would not be a Public Authority survey required for fiscal year 2008-09. When asked why they stated that there is not sufficient staff to handle the work associated with the report.

CAPA is filing a lawsuit against the State in reference to the reduced FMAP for Public Authority Admin. It is CAPA's contention that the State made an erroneous decision in not providing the full enhanced FMAP funding for PAs. The second part of the suit will be regarding the severe cut to PA funding and the impact it is having on IHSS consumers.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding the new provider enrollment requirements and impediments to implementation in most counties. There are still so many unanswered questions especially around DOJ background checks that some counties have opted to hold off until more clarity is available.

CAPA has made the decision to combine the Executive Director position with a Lobbyist so one person would fulfill both functions. When this is completed the lobbying group Cal Capitol will no longer represent CAPA. Recruitment is underway to fill this newly combined position.

Mary reported that the Governor's budget proposal released January 8th included reductions in IHSS services that would eliminate 87% of consumers from IHSS. He is proposing anyone with a functional index score (FIS) below 4 would lose services. The Governor also proposed total elimination of IHSS if the State is unsuccessful in obtaining 6.9 billion dollars from the federal government in money he says the feds owe California. The total elimination of IHSS is considered one of the trigger cuts that go into affect if the additional funds do not come from the feds. Mary reminded everyone that this is a proposal required by the Governor every January. The Senate and Assembly still must approve anything before it becomes final. Once again the Republicans staunchly oppose any tax increases so it is going to be a very difficult year for everyone.

Programs Report:

Benefits Administration:

There were 7,174 IPs enrolled in the Valley Health Plan and 7,704 IPs enrolled in the Dental/Vision plans during the month of December.

Benefits staff issued 10 Eco Passes during December bringing the total issued this calendar year to 3,371. However, the stickers issued during December were for 2010 so the actual total of 2009 stickers issued was 3,361.

The winter newsletter was mailed to 15,217 IPs. A PDF version of the newsletter is available upon request and on the PA website. It included information regarding the new enrollment requirements and instructing IPs to wait until they hear from the PA. It also included the new training schedule which has classes through June 2010.

Mary reported that PA staff has been very busy since the first of the year. All voicemail boxes have been full and calls coming in faster than staff can handle. It is overwhelming staff and upsetting consumers and providers due to the delay in getting calls returned.

Since moving back to the COA main office PA staff have been asking people to call first, not to come to the office as there is not capacity to handle walk-ins. PA staff attempt to handle everything via by mail or by phone. This situation is exacerbated since most of the staff is off-site two days a week conducting the New and Existing Provider Enrollment sessions. Until an agreement between COA and the County is finalized no temp staff can be hired to handle the enrollment sessions. This is putting a strain on staff and their workload. It is expected this should be resolved soon.

Additionally, the PA newsletter and the ECO Pass stickers were sent out late, during the first week of January, which also added to the overwhelming number of calls that came in the first few weeks of the month. These were ready to go out mid December but due to circumstances beyond our control didn't actually go in the mail until the end of the first week of January.

On January 12 & 13 the PA held enrollment sessions for existing providers at the Union office. Since the union was having the ratification meetings it seemed productive to enroll those providers who were there. The PA processed 861 existing providers in those two days. The union offered to assist the PA with language translation and use of their facilities for enrollment sessions. From here forward the PA will be utilizing the union office of SEIU Local 521 for enrollment sessions every Tuesday and Wednesday starting February 2nd through the end of June.

Janie Whiteford asked: how much money from the State is allocated towards all the new IHSS mandates?

Jim Ramoni responded that the state provided additional funds to implement the new mandates the figures are as follows:

County Fiscal Letter (CFL) No. 09/10-24 provides \$221,000 in SCC for the enrollment statement form and the process related to implement this.

County Fiscal Letter (CFL) No. 09/10-33 provides \$164,000 for IHSS anti-fraud related activities

County Fiscal Letter (CFL) No. 09/10-33 provides \$188,000 for costs associated with orientation, processing DOJ, appeals, etc.

New Enrollment Process: There were eight sessions held during the first two weeks of December. Sessions were held in small groups with a total number of 152 new providers being processed. There are more small group sessions scheduled for January to continue processing new providers as the PA gears up to begin processing existing providers as well.

Labor Negotiations: A tentative agreement was reached on December 22, 2009. The agreement was ratified by union members January 12th and 13th with 1,000 yes votes and 7 no votes. The agreement is scheduled to be ratified by the Board of Supervisors January 26th. The major changes to the agreement are a reduction in wages from \$12.35 to \$12.20, implementation of a two step wage tier which would not become effective until the roll out of CMIPS II and some time to ensure a smooth transition. This result in new IPs starting wage at \$9.50 per hour for the first 1850 paid hours then they would go up to the higher tier. The third major change increases the IP's portion of the premium for Valley Health Plan benefits from \$11 per month to \$25 per month effective March 1, 2010.

Registry Services:

There are 480 active IPs on the registry. The Registry completed 25 new consumer intakes, 23 matches and provided 103 interventions. The registry conducted no interviews the month of November. The Urgent Care Registry authorized 25 hours of service for the month of December.

Provider Training: Seven training sessions were offered during the month of December training 202 IPs.

California IHSS Consumer Alliance Report (CICA): Janie Whiteford reported CICA is very involved in the IHSS Coalition. There will be a breakout session at the CICA conference specifically for IHSS Coalition information. Janie encouraged everyone to attend and participate in the discussions. Janie indicated there are 180 people registered for the CICA conference this weekend. There will be sessions on how to become educated on the budget and how to become involved.

Janie reported that the Coalition is strategizing on pushing legislators to stand firm and how to get consumers involved in the process. There was discussion regarding consumers, giving personal stories and experience and getting more involved, learning how to make contact with their legislators.

Merina Yeung asked, “Does the consumer know what is going on with all the IHSS cuts?”
Janie responded, “Some consumers know, but not all.”

Members discussed how they can get the word out to consumers more effectively. There were several suggestions:

- providers that are not family members should let consumers know
- send out notes in paychecks, (Jim indicated this is not something that can be done.)
- setup special meetings to inform consumers
- newsletters

Annual Report Discussion: Mary reminded the group they needed to decide who would be presenting the annual report and their recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Jim Ramoni suggested they try to get on one of the Board Agenda in March. Cindy Faulkner, AB Chair will be the presenter, Janie Whiteford and JoAnn Disbrow will act as back up in case Cindy needs it. Mary Tinker will also be in attendance to answer any technical questions that might arise.

Report from Social Services Agency: Jim Ramoni reported IHSS received a higher allocation this year enabling three new social worker codes in the continuing unit. He expects these to be filled by mid to late February.

CMIPS II (Case Management Information & Payroll System) is really going to change IHSS functions, it will be web based and will have one centralized payroll location. Santa Clara County is scheduled to be part of the second group of counties to implement CMIPS II which was scheduled to roll out August of this year. It has been delayed for approximately 5 months. They are moving forward with the new implementation process, but with a new deadline of

January 2011. Due to the new mandates the implementation had to be pushed out.

Jim applauded and gave a big thank you to the PA for the successful enrollment sessions that have been conducted so far. He also expressed appreciation to the union for the generous offer to use their facility and all of the other contributions they have agreed to.

Jim indicated that although the enrollment sessions have been very successful so far he realizes there isn't much time to complete the process. He as well as his colleagues across the state are being very vocal with the State informing them that we may not meet the June 30, 2010 deadline. CWDA is going to ask for an extension because the current one is too short and unrealistic especially for the larger counties.

Jim reported that new intakes for IHSS have been down for the last few months. There are quite a few people who are no longer interested once they find out what the new requirements are, specifically since some are concerned about the DOJ background check and they may not clear it.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 16, 2010** from **11:30-1:30PM** at 2115 The Alameda, San Jose, CA 95126.