

**IHSS Public Authority Advisory Board Meeting  
January 18, 2011  
MINUTES**

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**Members Present:** Deane Denney, JoAnn Disbrow, Cindy Faulkner, Brian Miller, Richard Patterson, Jim Ramoni (ex-officio), Ellen Rollins, Janie Whiteford, Theresa Wright

**Members Absent:** Bharat Desai, Kai Lu, Elissa Young

**COA Staff Present:** Leticia Sabadin, Mary Tinker

**Guests Present:** Daisy Chu, Policy Aide from Supervisor George Shirakawa's Office, Merina Yeung, Internal Organizer from the SEIU Local 521 Union Office

**Approve Minutes:** November minutes approved as written.

**Announcements & Public Comment:** Mary Tinker announced she received Bharat Desai's letter of resignation on January 18<sup>th</sup>, it was faxed over to the Clerk of the Board's office for proper notification and processing.

Mary also announced DHCS 1115 Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2011 at the Sacramento Convention Center from 9:30am – 12:30pm. This meeting will focus on the implementation activities of the waiver. There will be capability to listen by phone for those who are interested.

Janie Whiteford announced the Senate and Assembly Budget Sub Committee's will be holding hearings the end of January and early February. The exact dates are unknown at this time but information will be emailed to AB members as it becomes available. Janie encouraged AB members to attend these hearings if possible, she plans to attend and testify on behalf of IHSS.

**CAPA Report:** Mary Tinker reported CAPA met December 2<sup>nd</sup> in Sacramento. She provided the following summary of the Governor's January proposed budget cuts to IHSS.

Governor's Proposed Budget:

- 12% across the board cut to IHSS service hours—makes the 3.6 % permanent, current statute schedules this to sunset June 30, 2012
  - Consumers who are at risk of institutionalization may submit a supplemental care application and the hours will be restored if the county approves the application.

- Eliminate domestic and related services—minors with able and available parents would no longer receive hours for domestic and related services unless the parent could provide medical verification of his/her inability to provide those services. Exceptions would be allowed as per current regulations for shared housing. Approximately 7,100 Consumers State-wide will be affected.
  - Shared Housing—Eliminate domestic and related services for all consumers who live with someone else (even if the consumer does not live with their IHSS provider). Exceptions would be allowed as per current regulations for shared housing. Approximately 314, 241 Consumers State-wide will be affected. There will be case-by-case/exceptions accepted. Consumers can appeal and apply for exception with the County.
- Physician Certification required to get IHSS—a medical evaluation would be required as part of the eligibility process to “ensure services are needed to avert out-of-home placement.” Required by all new Consumers, and also any re-assessments processed going forward, this certification will be required. There was a discussion between the members as to how much work this will entail. Also, there will probably be some Physicians who may not want to sign the certification because they are not clear on what IHSS is, and what services they have.
- Eliminate funding for IHSS Advisory Committees—this would remove the mandate for Advisory Committees and would become optional. Counties could opt to maintain an AC and fund their activities with 50% federal match; the state would not provide any funding.
- Public Authority Administrative funding reduced—carry-over from prior cut. \$2.476 million reduction
- County Administrative funds reduced—carry-over from prior cut. \$14,993 million reduction
- County Administrative funds reduced (new cut based on lower caseload estimates) \$7.650 million

Savings Scored in the Budget:

- IHSS Provider Fee \$130.860 million, all savings go to the state general fund
- IHSS Anti-Fraud savings \$451.126 million

Also note that CMS (Center for Medicare/Medicaid) Federal Administration will be required to “sign-off” on the Shared Housing and Physician Certification proposals.

Mary also reported that the Phase I Realignment efforts will be a huge task, very labor intensive project that will take time and it is anticipate this will be phased in over two years. Phase II which is indigent health care and IHSS are being proposed to move out of county control and up to the state. This raises many questions and no one is ready to discuss this at this time—phase one realignment will be the priority for the time being.

Janie Whiteford stated that she and CICA are very concerned with “doing away” with the IHSS Advisory Committees. Janie says that if this in fact is put into place then absolutely, the consumers will have no voice in IHSS. She also said that CICA and CAPA are in full support and pushing for Advisory Committees to exist, even if it means reduced funding.

Mary reported that SEIU has hired consultants to find ways of drawing additional Federal funding into IHSS.

JoAnn asked Mary for a quick “time-line” as to the Governor’s proposals. Mary stated that Governor Brown has set this process in motion with an accelerated timeline. This is not business as usual and will go very quickly. It is anticipated that the Assembly will vote at the end of their budget hearings, the Senate probably won’t as it will be a bit more involved but they will vote quickly (this will begin the last week of January and be completed by mid February). The budget may not be voted on by the full legislature until after the special election the Governor is proposing for June. He is pushing the legislature to pass trailer bills regarding his budget proposals by March 1, 2011. He wants the statute changes in place early enough to show the general public that he is serious about implementing the cuts. Cuts would then become effective by July 1, 2011 and all required notifications would have had time to be developed and sent. Governor Brown is also proposing to extend the current increased taxes, which are due to end June of this year, for an additional five years.

### **PA Programs Report:**

Benefits Administration: There were 7,354 IPs enrolled in the Valley Health Plan and 7,844 IPs enrolled in the Dental/Vision plans during the month of December.

Staff issued 23 Eco Passes during December bringing the total issued the calendar year to 14,744.

IP Enrollment: All enrollments are done by IPs using the website as the initial point of entry. After viewing the video they then go to an appointment calendar and schedule a day/time to come to the PA to complete the process. This is working very well, we have run into a few glitches but they have been fixed quickly and people are able to get through in a timely fashion. Using the new automated system REVA the PA processed October through December 815 IPs.

Registry Services: There are 450 active IPs on the registry. The Registry completed 53 new consumer intakes, 23 matches and provided 218 interventions.

The Urgent Care Registry authorized 17 hours of service for the month of December.

Provider Training: The Public Authority offered seven classes during December training 186 IPs. The number of requests for information regarding the Job Development fund continues with a total of 9 inquiries in December.

**California IHSS Consumer Alliance Report (CICA):** Janie Whiteford reported that CICA has a two day strategic planning meeting in San Diego later this week. They need to figure out who their supporters are and how to fight the elimination of the consumer voice via the Advisory Committee mandate. CICA also has a meeting scheduled with Frank Mecca, Executive Director for CWDA.

**Report from Social Services Agency:** Jim Ramoni reported that lay-off notices went out to affected employees of IHSS. He clarified that these employees are not actually losing their jobs but they are returning to their former job positions, in other words, these employees are getting a demotion. Incoming personnel have no experience or knowledge of IHSS and there will be quite a bit of cross-training conducted in the next few weeks.

Staff impacted:

2-Program Service Aides

1-Public Health Nurse

1-Social Worker

3-QA Staff

Jim also reported that IHSS is currently working on the “oldest of the old” re-assessments, and they are making progress to get this done as soon as possible.

Merina Yeung asked if the fraud unit gets involved with any of the cases when hours are reduced. The answer is no, basically any re-assessment made will be treated as a new assessment and the consumer should always ask questions and give input, find out why, if the hours are going to be reduced. Usually the consumer has been notified ahead of time, and they should be aware of why the reduction in hours is occurring.

Janie Whiteford asked Jim if there was a State Report for Fraud available and the answer is no. Jim indicated he can have Terri and Linda come to one of the AB meetings to present information on Fraud and report on QA.

**Discussion on Strategic Planning Session:** There was general consensus of the group to put this on hold for the time being.

**Discussion on Recommendations for the Annual Accomplishments Report:** There was general consensus of the group to put this on hold for the time being.

**Resolution Commending Bharat Desai for his service as an AB member:** Mary Tinker presented the letter and certificate from the Public Authority, commending Bharat for his service as an advisory board member. All members accepted and agreed with the resolution. Items will be mailed to Bharat at his home address.

**Agenda Items for next month:** Jim Ramoni will bring two staff members to discuss Fraud and “Un-Met Needs”.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 15, 2011** from **11:30-1:30PM** at 2115 The Alameda, San Jose, CA 95126.