

IHSS Public Authority Advisory Board Meeting
March 19, 2013
MINUTES

Members Present: Theresa Wright, Janie Whiteford, JoAnn Disbrow via tele-conference, Ellen Rollins, Jim Ramoni (ex-officio), Deane Denney, Senon Hernandez

Members Absent: Brian Miller, Dennis Schneider

COA Staff Present: Mary Tinker, Leticia Sabadin

Guests Present: Merina Yeung, SEIU Local 521 Internal Organizer; Robert Stroughter, potential AB Member; Ashley Partch, IHSS IP; Richard Rangel, Potential AB Member; Jim Dale, Board Aide for Supervisor Yeager District 4 Office

Announcements & Public Comment: Janie Whiteford announced the Olmstead Committee held a meeting last week. As a committee member, Janie attended and was involved in receiving some very important information regarding an ADA decision that was made which requires every state to have an Olmstead contract.

Secretary Diane Dooley, stated the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) is hanging by a thread since the State's proposal was not approved as submitted. Major sticking points regarding consumer protection issues; passive enrollment requested by the state but CMS is not in agreement with this. The State is still committed to this effort, to see it through. There needs to be new legislation since previous documents expired in Feb 2013. This is a huge issue.

Janie Whiteford also announced she received information for the "13 Tips for Successful Advocacy" presented by Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian. It is a free workshop and she encouraged all to attend. Scheduled for March 21st from 1:30-3:30pm.

Location: San Jose Conservation Corps and Charter School
1560 Berger Drive
San Jose, Ca. 95112

Approve Minutes: January 15, 2013 minutes approved as written.

NOTE: Correction to the minutes of 9-25-12, under Announcements & Public Comment section, second paragraph should read: "Ellen Rollins reported that she received and accepted on behalf of SEIU Local 521, a certificate of appreciation on September 6, 2012 from Santa Clara Board of Supervisor Shirakawa's office..."

CAPA Report: Mary Tinker reported CAPA met February 28 in Sacramento. CAPA continues work regarding development of all facets if CCI/Dual Eligible transition to managed care and the collective bargaining shift to the state.

CMIPS II Update: John Logan, CMIPS II Director and two staff from OSI attended the CAPA meeting to hear concerns and seek solutions for benefits deductions and other issues around implementation of the new system. Members discussed issues regarding payroll deductions taken on multiple checks as was the method in the pilot counties and stressed the need for this to be fixed. A workgroup was formed to address these concerns.

Federal Overtime Regulations: The National Council on Disabilities (NCOD) was asked by the White House to provide feedback on OT regulations and convened an invitation-only roundtable on January 30. Karen Keeslar, CAPA Executive Director, was invited to participate. The NCOD agenda indicated that draft regulations are now at OMB. When regulations are submitted to OMB, a 90-day clock starts. The 90-days will be reached around April 15, 2013; the default implementation date is normally 30 days after OMB completes its review. Karen is pushing hard to ask for states to have at least one year to implement the OT regulation to figure out ways to mitigate the impact to consumers in California. Hopefully, OMB will send the regulations back to the US Department of Labor.

According to a letter submitted by the Secretary Diane Dooley to OMB this will have a \$250 million impact in California. The state will have to change the IHSS program and send out communication that providers cannot submit timesheets for over 40 hours per week.

State Budget Proposal, FY 13/14: For the first time in nearly a decade the Governor's proposal did not contain new reductions for IHSS. There are discussions around organizations uniting to ask the legislature to repeal cuts that were enacted in 2009, 2010 and 2011: (1) the 20% trigger cut, (2) the Functional Index cut, and (3) the reduction in state participation in IHSS provider wages and benefits.

PROGRAMS REPORT

Benefits Administration: There were 8,167 IPs enrolled in the Valley Health Plan and 8,706 IPs enrolled in the Dental/Vision plans during the month of February.
Staff issued 135 Eco Passes

IP Enrollment:

Number of IPs in February: 308

Registry Services: There are 385 active IPs on the registry. The registry:

- Completed 46 new consumer intakes
- Attained 28 matches that were reported by consumers/IPs
- Provided 179 interventions

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

Provider Training: There were eight training sessions held in February training 192 IPs.

Janie mentioned to Mary to make another announcement regarding the email Mary sent to all members in regards to the Adult Education Centers. Strongly urge all to write and email their assemblymen and the Governors' office. Need to ensure that the Adult Ed Centers stay in tact. This is a critical and important component for our workers which have different needs in some cases, and based on some different guidelines and curriculums for our population of workers.

California IHSS Consumer Alliance Report (CICA): Janie Whiteford reported there are currently 22 county members within the CICA organization. Janie also mentioned the monthly conference call which is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20th and she encouraged all members to try to participate by phone. Janie stated that the annual CICA meeting is scheduled for April and one of the important agenda items is to conduct elections for regional Vice Presidents.

CICA's focus is to represent the consumers as a state wide organization; CICA is the strongest consumer advocacy group in the state. With so many issues at hand it is especially important now to be aware of all the primary Health Care issues and initiatives and what better way than to be involved with CICA.

Report from Social Services Agency: Jim Ramoni reported that with the new transition to CMIPS II, IHSS will handle case loads differently. There will no longer be a "banked" case load system. There is currently 50 social work staff and they will be assigned 335 cases each. Cases will be distributed by language, and each social worker will be responsible to handle intakes. This is a significant change to how cases have been handled over the past several years but with the transition to CMIPS II there was no other alternative. For the month of April as the transition occurs, all social worker staff will get organized and begin working on the "oldest" reassessment cases first to work toward catching up on past due reassessments. Additionally social workers will be focusing on client issues, not IP issues. Communication will soon come out to all clients who will be introduced to their "social worker", with their name and contact information.

With the Santa Clara County CMIPS II go-live Date of May 1, IHSS is preparing the website with links and also memos to go out to all consumers and care providers. There is a lot of training going on at IHSS and there are different modules for each classification to which training is being finalized: Social Work; Clerical; Payroll. Until go-live date, all timesheets will still be processed manually.

Jim also reported that as the data conversion transitions to CMIPS II the entire month of May will be difficult for staff and IHSS consumers/providers. Because the system will be in transition with data conversion IPs and consumers will not be able to access the automated phone system to obtain timesheet or payroll information. It is unfortunate but it is something that has to be handled this way in order for the data to be transferred over without any delays or

complications. Needless to say, the phone lines will be very, very busy, busier than usual and the office traffic will increase. There is no happy way around this and IHSS will do their best but IHSS, PA and Union need to help IPs with the transition.

IHSS will be conducting timesheet “clinics” to assist IPs in learning how to complete the new timesheets. Also Jim verified with Merina that the Union office has been conducting timesheet trainings already. The trainings at the Union have been very successful and they will continue until the new transition is completed. So far, per Merina, they held two training sessions with each one having more than 100 people in attendance. Within the next few weeks Jim will try to get more information with Q&A and he also said that there may not be answers to some questions until we actually “GO LIVE”.

One of the major differences with the new timesheets is that the number of hours worked needs to be documented in hours and minutes only. With rejected timesheets, they will be sent from Chico back to the IHSS County Office which will cause delays in getting paid for IPs.

SVILC Memo Discussion, Q&A: Mary Tinker reported that at this time there is nothing to discuss and that this is basically a “non-issue”. COASV and SVILC are working to develop a partnership. These are two agencies with very different focus, SVILC provides a strong presence for people with disabilities and COASV provides a strong presence for aging services. Using these strengths and expertise both are essential to creating an “ADRC”-Aging Disabled Resource Center. Although Mary has heard rumors to the contrary there is no merger in the works, just to make that clear. The two agencies are working toward developing a solid partnership and need time to work through inherent differences and learn one another’s corporate cultural in order to function well in an ADRC to serve seniors and persons with disabilities in the community.

Sarah Triano resigned her position as CEO for SVILC. She has been appointed by the Governor to a position at the state. Mary emphasized that there is no need to worry about this memo and to not take any type of position. Janie Whiteford commented that there needs to be a “one stop shop” to make it easier for people to obtain information and services. Mary mentioned the “no wrong door” approach, and this is what the ADRC is for, working towards the “warm hand off” and trying to connect directly from COASV to SVILC. It is an effort to utilize both resource centers efficiently and effectively and to get rid of “silos”. Mary also made mentioned that all COASV employees attended a mandatory Disabilities Sensitivity Training session to begin the process of learning how to work better with SVILC and understand their clients more fully.

Training/Travel Report: Janie Whiteford reported back her recent trainings, meetings and travel incurred. See attached document.

Janie mentioned that the AB receives \$3000.00 annually. The AB should utilize these funds for any types of conferences, meetings, trainings, etc. to build a better AB and enhance IHSS in our community. It is strongly suggested that other, more members utilize these funds and try to attend as many functions as possible. Janie displayed a copy of an expense report that needs to

be submitted for any use towards this. The PA admin can assist with any questions and/or completion of the form.

AB Budget: Mary reported that the Advisory Board is allocated \$3,000 by the state annually and can draw down federal funds bringing the total to \$5,916. AB members can utilize these funds for meetings, conferences, trainings, mileage expenses and other things to educate themselves related to IHSS and provide advice and recommendations regarding IHSS. Members are encouraged to submit travel and expense reports having to do with the AB. At this time there is a budget amount of \$5,916 for the AB and as of now, \$5,200.00 remains available to use. There was consensus of the group restart the lunches for the AB monthly meetings.

It was suggested research be done to see about training by CARA (CA Alliance for Retired Americans), they provide a two-day training academy with relevant topics for AB members. There was consensus to pay the \$500.00 CICA membership dues.

An ad-hoc committee will meet and discuss training options and report back to the group. Janie Whiteford, Ellen Rollins and Mary Tinker will work on this committee.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 16, 2013** from **11:30-1:30PM**, at the Council on Aging Silicon Valley main office located at 2115 The Alameda, San Jose, CA. 95126.