

**IHSS Public Authority Advisory Board Meeting
February 15, 2022
MINUTES**

ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

<https://zoom.us/j/97448761420?pwd=bmR1b3NIMEVUWHR1UGFkNUo4V1Z0UT09>

Meeting ID: 974 4876 1420

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*****This meeting is being recorded for purposes of capturing the meeting minutes.***

Members Present via Virtual/Conf. Call: Janie Whiteford; Beverly Lozoff; Mathew Lubinsky;
Terri Possley (Ex-Officio); Darcy McCann; David Forderer;
Dennis Schneider, Lori Andersen, Emilio Carrillo

Members Absent: N/A

PA Staff Present via Virtual/Conf. Call: Edith Gong, Leticia Sabadin

Guests Present via Virtual/Conf. Call: Narendra Pathak, IHSS Client & Guest; Steve Kline, Board Aide
for Board of Supervisor Ellenberg, District 4, Gianna Spina, ILS/PAS Coordinator
@ SVILC

Announcements & Public Comment:

- Janie asked newly appointed AB member and union representative Emilio Carrillo to plan on doing a monthly union report on our agenda.
- Janie plans to send important emails, information to Leticia so she can forward to all AB members.
- Edith announced that there was a meeting between PA, Sourcewise and the Office of OES. There will be a distribution of Antigen Test Kits to Registry providers, newly enrolled providers. Approximately 5,000 providers meeting certain criteria will be emailed and can request kits via a future drive-through pickup. MSSP and Meals on Wheels clients also receiving these free kits. Plan is to distribute 7,500 kits.

Approval of Minutes:

- Motion by David Forderer to approve the January 18, 2022 meeting minutes; seconded by Beverly Lozoff, vote was unanimous.

AB Budget Spending FY 21/22:

- Janie will commit to doing a spreadsheet or document that shows budget spending for FY 22-23, she will then share with all members and ask for input.

- Janie reiterated that members need to think of expenditures such as conferences, books, meetings, etc to go towards the AB budget. She emphatically encouraged the AB to utilize these funds
- Edith put up a spreadsheet for current year expenditures.
- Possibly pay CICA dues ahead of time.

Federal Grant for Community Based Programs, follow-up:

- Janie sent a copy of the HCBS Local Plan to Leticia so she can forward to all AB members.
- Janie has been getting some RFPs, some of which are very important and should be discussed within this board.
- Lori suggested that there are some to pay attention to, but not all. Lori is willing to review the entire document and highlight the most important issues and topics for the board. Lori and Janie can meet offline and report back to this board.
- Lori discussed challenges with Homeless Outreach and how they get on IHSS. Consumers need to have supportive housing such as a motel/hotel room, a shelter, or be supported through “Project Roomkey”, etc...
- Gianna Spina from SVILC shared that they have a program helping their homeless population, who would like to be IHSS care providers. They offer cell phones for free, depending on their circumstances. People can reach out to Ashley Perez, Program Director for the homeless program at SVILC.

CICA Q & A from the Training conducted:

- Mathew did mention that there are difficulties with the electronic timesheets, specifically, the homeless population. He states that when a care provider tries to update their password they struggle. There are also issues with the logging into the portal, poor internet service, or phone screen being too small.
- Edith agrees with Mathew; there are digital divide issues and the fact that not all are familiar with current features and are not tech savvy. Most care providers work independently but sometimes they need help and assistance with their electronic timesheets. There may be some behavioral health issues as well.
- Janie says that there needs to be allowances on managing their own care, on how to handle e-timesheets.
- Gianna at SVILC states that they can promote libraries, the Zephyr Help Center or even at SVILC, they offer appointment where consumers can get help and assistance with timesheets.
- Emilio also confirmed issues with digital divide and providers. There are iPads available at the Union. Setup an appointment and IPs and Consumers are welcome to come in and get assistance with entering and approving timesheets.
- David states that this is a critical issue. He has a designated person that authorizes his timesheets. IHSS has Authorized Signer forms available.
- Edith says that we should have a mentor program, consumers helping consumers. This issue is huge, needs to be addressed by State Legislation possibly. David can help with this.
- Mathew asked Janie about mentoring people, someone to take her place at CICA when that time comes. Succession planning is on the CICA and CAPA agenda. They are looking for younger consumers,, diversity; need to look at all types of candidates.
- Terri did like that we used the meeting time and location/Zoom for the CICA trainings.

California IHSS Consumer Alliance Report (CICA):

- Janie reminded everyone that their monthly CICA call is scheduled for tomorrow, 2-16-22 at 10am. She strongly suggested everyone attend. Leticia sent out the email with all the information for the call.
- The 1st Wednesday of the month is the CICA Training and the topic is “Best Practices in Building Relationships with your Board of Supervisors/Aides”.
- The 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month is the CICA Executive Committee Meeting, all are welcome to attend. The 3rd Wednesday of the month is the Statewide Meeting with all kinds of speakers.
- CICA dues are coming up and the amounts will stay the same, our AB pays \$1000.
- FYI CICA membership pays for one employee, Tammy Willits who is contracted by Olsen Associates. CICA is most likely looking to hire more help since they are very busy.

Social Services Agency Report:

- Terri reported that they have 11 DSWs activated as of now. She was hoping they would all be back by now, so they are waiting for their return. For some DSWs, they have been gone for over 2 years.
- Budget news FY 23: as far as the new positions requested, Terri states that they received an informal acknowledgement regarding the increase in staff. She feels encouraged for IHSS and hopes good things will happen, but knows that they may not get their headcount approved or may have cuts in headcount.
- Terri discussed new legislation that will be proposed regarding annual reassessments. One proposal is to have face-to-face reassessments every three (3) years instead of every year, with phone and/or video every other two (2) years. The case load is growing, there is Social Worker burn out. Consumers who are high risk, for example, would be seen once a year.
- Terri and Edith sit on a task force and they are looking for client testimonies to support this proposal. David Darcy and agreed to do a testimonial. Mathew would be willing to give testimony on the opposite side of the proposal. Get perspective from all sides is essential.
- David states that he just had his re-assessment and it went very well. IHSS Bay Area Regional Task Force will be contacting individuals who agree to do a testimonial.
- *Mathew stated that face-to-face home visits are essential. Social workers do need to occasionally go out to do home visits. The safe home environment inspection is important. Phone and video assessments are convenient and do work to some extent. The consumer can still request an annual in-person assessment at any time.
- Janie asked about increased access to APS, and the potential of fraud and how many cases there are in IHSS . Terri states that their fraud department, known as their Program Integrity, which has three employees. That unit is busy and continues to work on any fraudulent calls and cases that come through. They have difficulty keeping up with the demand.
- Terri reported that the County Pandemic Pay of \$500 is being sent out this week. There is an email provided and an FAQ. The State check of \$500 (minus taxes) was sent out back in January 2022.

PROGRAMS REPORT

Below in **yellow/OR *asterisk** were topics that were highlighted and mentioned.

Due to COVID exposures, several staff testing positive and the highly contagious Omicron variant, the PA has gone back to mostly remote work and email/phone appointments for IP enrollment. Certain staff are in the office to handle incoming and outgoing mail. We will continue to monitor the situation and return to the office when the county COVID metrics are improved. The Public Authority has two open positions – Training Specialist and Outreach & Registry Recruitment Specialist. Tamanna Medha joined as a Care Coordinator on January 4.

Benefits Administration:

There are **12,505** IPs enrolled in the Valley Health Plan with **3441** of those in the Classic Plan and **9064** in the Preferred Plan. **13,146** IPs are enrolled in the Dental/Vision plans. There were **111** Smart Pass VTA Cards issued.

Enrollment:

Number of IPs enrolled: **478**

Number of IPs partially done: **950 (cumulative)**

Fingerprints that are delayed (awaiting DOJ results): **13**

Scheduling an appointment is ~5 business days from the time an IP completes the viewing of the orientation videos.

Group sessions with the union are still suspended.

Registry Services:

There are **453** active IPs on the registry and **2,324** active consumers.

The Registry:

- Completed **90** new consumer intakes and reactivated **5** consumers
- Attained **38** matches
- Provided **507** new interventions with just over **183 hours** spent on the interventions

Care Coaching: The Registry received **14** referrals for Care Coaching.

- **1** remote care coaching consultation was conducted
- Total active consumers **15**
- Total inactive consumers **244**

Urgent Care Registry: There were **6** hours of urgent care services authorized to **1** consumer.

Emergency Backup Registry: This program ended on 12/31/21. Legislation that was just signed off and this is now extended to June 30, 2022.

Registry Introductory Training (RIT): **One** remote RITs was held.

- **22** interviews were conducted

- **44** reference check calls made, with **44** completed reference checks
- **17** providers attended the eRIT
- **17** providers were added to the registry

EPG (formerly PPE): A total of **206** kits were mailed with **149** sets going to IPs and **57** to Consumers for a total of **2,110** masks and **3,760** pairs of gloves.

Public Authority Phone Calls: The PA received **5,550** phone calls. Breakdown of the calls:

- **Registry** **1,607**
- **Enrollment** **1,272**
- **General** **124**
- **Benefits** **1,780**
- **Training/PPE** **767**

IP Trainings: The Spring semester begins in February and training class registration began on January 10. Over 29,000 schedules were printed and mailed to IPs. 86 classes have been scheduled for this semester.

Electronic Time Sheets: The combined adoption rate continues to be at **99.9%**. Providers reached **99.8%** consumers reached **100%**.

Direct Deposit: **75.3%** of IPs are using direct deposit.

Sick Leave Update: **27,993** active IPs have accrued 16 hours of sick leave. **4,334** have claimed some hours and **3,220** have claimed all 16 hours so far.

CAPA REPORT

Below in **yellow/OR *asterisk** were topics that were highlighted and mentioned.

CAPA met on January 27. The CAPA Board was hoping to have its first quarterly in-person meeting in January, but given the spread of the Omicron variant, meetings will continue to be held via video/teleconference only.

Budget

The Governor released the 22/23 budget on January 10. The summary can be found here: <https://www.ebudget.ca.gov/FullBudgetSummary.pdf> There is projected surplus of \$45.7 billion (\$20.6B for General Fund, \$16.1B for K-14 Education, \$9B in reserve and supplemental pension payment.) The Budget projects the State Appropriations Limit ("Gann Limit") will likely be exceeded in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal years. Any funds above this limit are constitutionally required to be allocated evenly between schools and a tax refund. This will be addressed in May.

Budget highlights: addressing homelessness, COVID-19, wildfires, emergency response, drought, climate crisis issues as well as housing, small business investment, workforce, healthcare, transit, education, public safety. Universal healthcare is proposed with an implementation date of January 2024.

\$217.5B is allocated to all health and human services programs, with \$18.5B for IHSS. Projected caseload for IHSS is 598,835. The 22/23 budget reflects \$399M and \$192M general fund in 21/22 due to the state minimum wage going to \$15/hr on 1/1/22.

The Budget provides funding for the continued expansion of Medi-Cal for all income eligible Californians.

- \$819.3 million (\$613.5 million General Fund) in 2023-24
- \$2.7 billion (\$2.2 billion General Fund) annually at full implementation, inclusive of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) costs, to expand full-scope eligibility to all income-eligible adults aged 26 through 49 regardless of immigration status. Beginning no sooner than January 1, 2024, Medi-Cal will be available to all income-eligible Californians.

The Medi-Cal budget is \$123.8 billion (\$26.8 billion General Fund) in 2021-22 and \$132.7 billion (\$34.9 billion General Fund) in 2022-23. These items that pertain to IHSS:

Medi-Cal for Older Adults Regardless of Immigration Status:

- \$54 million (\$43.1 million General Fund) in 2021-22 and \$660.9 million (\$567.1 million General Fund) in 2022-23 for the full year cost of expanding full-scope Medi-Cal to older adults age 50 and older regardless of immigration status effective May 1, 2022 (inclusive of IHSS costs). This policy change was included in the 2021 Budget Act.

Medi-Cal Assets for Older and Disabled Adults:

- \$200.7 million (\$93.4 million General Fund) in 2022-23 to phase in the elimination of the Medi-Cal asset limit no sooner than January 1, 2022 (inclusive of IHSS costs). The asset limit will be fully eliminated no sooner than January 1, 2024 with an annual cost of \$434.7 million (\$201.3 million General Fund) ongoing. This policy change was included in the 2021 Budget Act.

IHSS Permanent Back-up Provider System (in statute/law last year, however, criteria not yet agreed to by stakeholders; implementation expected to start on 7/1/22):

- \$24.8 million (\$11.2 million General Fund) ongoing to establish a permanent back-up provider system for IHSS recipients to avoid disruptions to caregiving due to an immediate need or emergencies.

Long Term Care Operations

- On-going discussion to move re-assessments for “stable” consumers to every two years, versus annual. This could impact 50% of the cases.
- Continued functionality enhancements to the Electronic Services Portal: Effective 3/5 providers are able to get replacement copy of W2 for 2021 and up to 4 years of historical W2’s by summer.
- No new information/guidance from the Biden Administration regarding location tracking with EVV.
- State Care Economy Payment (Hero Pay) issued on 1/21 with subsequent payments for those IPs with a Tier 2 crime were issued on 1/31.

IHSS Career Pathways Training

A survey was sent to all PAs/Counties to assess existing available training for IPs and interest in providing or developing training for Career Pathways. There was active discussion on how/if CAPA could do something as an organization. CDSS confirmed that CAPA is not a PA nor County and subject to the standard RFP process like any other non-profit. PAs/Counties will be “fast tracked” for career pathways training funding because CDSS already has an established relationship and processes for payment/expense reimbursement.

CDSS Update

- PPE admin funding and supplies were extended to end of the fiscal year (6/30/22).
- EBR ended effective 12/31/21. Admin Funding and \$2/hr pay differential ended as well. However, there is active discussion of this program being extended, especially with the community spread of the Omicron variant.
- CDSS reminded PAs that SOC 448, 432, 449 documents no longer need to be submitted via paper. All forms can be submitted electronically.
- Several PAs noted their displeasure with the new Worker's Comp vendor, Intercare. Claim numbers are not being provided immediately and IPs cannot be referred to an Occupational Health provider. IPs are waiting for an unknown amount of time. CDSS is working to smooth out the issues identified by PAs.

Next Meeting:

- Next Advisory Board meeting:
Tuesday, March 15, 2022, from 12 noon to 1:30 pm via ZOOM Virtual/Conference call.

Next agenda items:

- HCBS
- Budget FY 22-23, Janie will let us know
- CICA, Janie will hopefully provide an update and Edith can present on her behalf
- Union report by Emilio

NOTE: Janie has cataract surgery on March 15th so Mathew Lubinsky will need to Chair the meeting.