

IHSS Public Authority Advisory Board Meeting
July 19, 2022
MINUTES

ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

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

Meeting ID: 974 4876 1420

Passcode: 293979

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

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

Members Absent: N/A

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

Guests Present via Virtual/Conf. Call: Demetrius (Dino) Evans, Housing & ILC Coordinator, SVILC; Joanna Kent, IHSS Care Provider & Guest; Steve Kline, Board Aide for Board of Supervisor Ellenberg, District 4; Adrian Olea, SEIU 2015 Union Steward; Joyce Felix, HCBS Program Manager, LTSS @ SCFHP, Elizabeth Diaz, Case Manager, SVILC; Linda Souza, Housing & ILS Coordinator, SVILC; Jayantika Das, Housing Coordinator, SVILC; Christine Fitzgerald, Community Advocate, SVILC

Announcements & Public Comment:

- Janie Whiteford would like to Thank Leticia Sabadin for all she does for this board. The AB presented Leticia with a thank you card.
- Christine Fitzgerald wanted to mention three important meetings/webinars that are coming up in August that are focused on the disability community.
- Edith Gong mentioned the invite to attend an all day event in Sacramento on Tuesday, September 20th. It is the California for All Ages & Abilities Day of Action and the website link to register is: <https://ww.caforall.org/home>. This is event if free, but you need to register. Edith sent an email to all members. AB has funds for members to attend and if there is any interest please let Edith and Leticia know.
- Mathew Lubinsky had two issues that he wanted to mention, mainly for Terri to address.
 - IP received a reduction of total violation counts; these are notices sent from the State.
 - Another IP is having issues with Direct Deposit and changing their bank account number. Terri referred Mathew to the HELP Desk for Direct Deposit.
- Beverly Lozoff thanked Janie Whiteford for a great job as former Chair to this board. Thank you Janie!
- David Forderer stated that his membership on this board will be expiring. If David would like to continue his membership, no action is needed.

Approval of Minutes:

- Motion by Darcy McCann to approve the June 21, 2022 meeting minutes; seconded by Beverly Lozoff, vote was unanimous.

Approve Final Recommendations for Annual Report:

- Here are the final recommendations this board would like to include in the Annual Report.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 2022

While many of the recommendations listed cannot be addressed solely by the Board of Supervisors, we feel that support and advocacy at the state level (CDSS, California Legislature) is warranted to address the growing needs and concerns of IHSS Consumers and Providers.

- Consumer Education/Training: Providers must go through state-mandated training to become IHSS providers. We would like to see a similar type of video-based or online training for consumers provided at the state level. We also recommend a consumer mentoring program so those who are successful at navigating the IHSS program and hiring and maintaining providers can share their knowledge with other consumers.
- Advisory Board Funding: Advocate at the state level to restore Advisory-Board funding to the level prior to 2009, or approximately \$56K. Advisory Boards were much more active and a voice for consumers prior to the large funding cut. With limited funding, Advisory Boards are less able to hold conferences, recruit members and actively participate in advocacy and the legislative process.
- Tiered Payment System: It is very difficult to find providers who are willing or able to provide more skilled personal services tasks such as bowel and bladder care. We recommend development and implementation of a tiered payment system to better compensate those providers willing to do this critical work.
- In-person Re-assessments Every Three Years: For consumers who are stable in their health conditions, allow in-person re-assessments to be done every three years rather than every 12-18 months and video conferencing or phone re-assessments every year. This will dramatically improve the caseload burden on social workers and alleviate the burden on consumers who have no changes in their condition.
- Safety-net Payments for Providers: A great many providers who live paycheck to paycheck suffer financially when their consumers become hospitalized given the difficulty of finding temporary, short-term assignments with new consumers. We propose offering up to two weeks' pay for providers when their consumers are "on leave."
- Resource Team for County Social Workers: IHSS social workers do not have time nor expertise to assist consumers in finding social services programs that consumers may benefit from; examples include housing, legal, food insecurity, financial programs, paratransit, adaptive physical and social opportunities. We propose that a resource staff person be tasked with meeting this need.

- Christine made comments regarding the Tiered Payment System and to add to it as far as certification on training levels. Christine is not a board member and officially cannot edit these recommendations, but we can take her comments into consideration.
 - Emilio made a comment regarding Safety-Net Payments for Providers. He asked about clients who pass away unexpectedly.
 - Mathew commented that he really would like to see some type of resource staff person assist with last recommendation noted. He says life would have been much easier had he known all this information, about IHSS when he first left the hospital years ago.
 - Linda S from SVILC asked if a does a resource directory exists. Terri stated that the SWs do have these, but more in a format of links for websites.
 - Christine F mentioned Office of Disability Affairs and a possible IHSS partnership.
 - Beverly was really impressed with the six viable recommendations and good job!
 - David mentioned that he will be meeting with Otto Lee's office at the beginning of August, and he can bring up these recommendations to them.
- Motion by Janie Whiteford to approve the list of recommendations presented, seconded by Darcy McCann & Beverly Lozoff, vote was unanimous.

California IHSS Consumer Alliance Report (CICA):

- Janie announced that CICA has 25 counties enrolled in this statewide organization.
- Janie asked that Leticia email info on CICA statewide meeting scheduled for tomorrow, July 20th; a lot of activities going on.
- Janie announced the trailer bill language for the Labor Law/Code that has taken everyone by surprise. This will hugely impact consumers and providers.
- Janie will forward the IHSS Labor Letter that CICA has signed on to, to all members and guests if they wish. Please type in your email address in the chat Zoom meeting section. Christine, Steve asked for a copy of the letter.
- Janie reiterated that additional information would be shared on this trailer bill language in the CICA statewide meeting.

SEIU Local 2015 Report:

- Adrian Olea reported that there is not a lot going on this month.
- They are working on trainings for e-timesheets.
- There have been many incidents with people coming in to the SEIU 2015 office building without a face mask, and that is a requirement for their office at this time.
- The union is looking for their own new building to conduct business.
- They are also working on in-person training to be scheduled the last week of each month.

Social Services Agency Report:

- Terri does not have a lot to report this month as it is a new fiscal year.
- They are working behind the scenes to make a lot of enhancements and improvements to service delivery to their clientele.
- IHSS is hiring the 17 new positions that were approved by the BOS last month. They have initiated the requisitions for these positions and most of them are bilingual. For the first time they are hiring a bilingual-Hindi Social Worker.

- State notices were sent out to 58 counties to people who are blind and visually impaired. They are notices for eligibility to receive at home COVID 19 test kits. Unfortunately, the State did not send out notices to all and IHSS had to work with the IT Department to send out over 8,000 emails in Santa Clara County.
- After about 2 ½ years now, IHSS has been working with IT to develop an automated tool that would assign all intake cases to Social Workers automatically instead of one person doing it manually. This project is up and running as of this month; so far so good.

PROGRAMS REPORT

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

The Public Authority had a candidate who accepted the offer for the Training Specialist but did not show up for work on the first day and therefore the position has been re-opened on recruiting platforms.

Benefits Administration:

There are **12,671** IPs enrolled in the Valley Health Plan with **3,287** of those in the Classic Plan and **9,384** in the Preferred Plan. **13,314** IPs are enrolled in the Dental/Vision plans. There were **91** Smart Pass VTA Cards issued.

Enrollment:

Number of IPs enrolled: **366**

Fingerprints that are delayed (awaiting DOJ results): **4**

Scheduling an appointment is ~20 business days (4 weeks) from the time an IP completes the viewing of the orientation videos. The enrollment team had staffing challenges (vacations, COVID), which hampered the staff's ability to add additional appointments in June. In addition, with the start of group sessions with SEIU on June 10, we are now losing at least 4 appointment days each month.

Registry Services:

There are **507** active IPs on the registry and **2,242** active consumers.

The Registry:

- Completed **58** new consumer intakes and reactivated **151** consumers
- Attained **54** matches
- Provided **622** new interventions with over **251 hours** spent on the interventions

Care Coaching: The Registry received **24** referrals for Care Coaching

- **7** care coaching consultations were conducted
- Total active consumers **26**
- Total inactive consumers **213**

Urgent Care Registry: There were **0** hours of urgent care services this month.

Emergency Backup Registry: There were no (0) requests for an emergency backup provider this month. There are a total of **7** providers on the emergency backup registry.

Registry Introductory Training (RIT): **Four** remote RITs were held; two each of English and Spanish.

- 40 interviews were conducted
- 160 reference check calls made, with 80 completed reference checks
- 40 providers were invited to the eRITs; 27 ENG / 13 SP
- 34 providers were added to the registry; 22 ENG / 12 SP

EPG (formerly PPE): A total of 102 kits were mailed with 67 sets going to IPs and 35 to Consumers for a total of 1,020 masks and 2,140 pairs of gloves. **Note:** *The PA will distribute PPE in the office lobby, once a month, normally the 3rd Friday of the month starting in July 2022. Admin funding for PPE ended on June 30, 2022. State reporting is no longer required after FY21-22.*

Public Authority Phone Calls: The PA received 4,987 phone calls. Breakdown of the calls:

- Registry 1,548
- Enrollment 1,443
- Benefits 1,616
- Training/PPE 380

IP Trainings: The Spring semester is completed, and no classes were held in June. The Training Manager is busy preparing for the Fall semester and looking to add two classes back to the schedule that have not been held since pre-pandemic days.

Electronic Time Sheets: The combined adoption rate is 99.9%; providers reached 99.8% and consumers reached 100%. **Note:** *Electronic time sheet information will no longer be provided in future reports as they are mandatory for providers and consumers. The combined rate of 99.9% has been achieved for the last year or more.*

Direct Deposit: 80.6% of paid providers are using direct deposit.

Sick Leave Update: 26,692 active IPs have accrued 16 hours of sick leave. 8,223 have claimed some hours and 7,485 have claimed all 16 hours.

CAPA REPORT

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

CAPA met on June 23 via Zoom.

The CAPA Executive Director has been working very hard to recommend redistribution of FY20-21 unspent funds to those PAs who could use the unspent funds. For the most part, PAs that were identified will be able to use the unspent funds; Santa Clara is included in the list that will be able to take advantage of the re-distribution of unspent funds. In addition, the FY22-23 PA Admin allocation has gone through several iterations using a “triple equity” approach. In general, these considerations were used in conjunction with the revised “Tier within the Tier” approach developed by the previous ED, Finance team and approved by the CAPA Board last year:

- Are there PAs that are disproportionately below the median admin allocation within their sub-tier? (Tiers and sub-tiers are based on caseload size)
- Should PAs who had unspent funds of \$200K+ in FY20-21 get an increase in allocation?
- Are there PAs who are underspent in FY21-22 by \$200K+? If so, should they get an increase?

- Are there PAs who are limited by contract and cannot use additional funds that would normally be allocated to them?

Legislative and Budget Update

- The final budget for FY22-23 was signed by the Governor and was different from the final approved budget from that of the legislature.
- The trailer bill language for the Backup Provider system was finalized and must be implemented no earlier than 10/1/22 and no later than 60 days after the ACL is released. Funding for the program and PA admin are tied to the annual budget. The primary change from the draft language states usage hour caps are tied to the fiscal year, not date of the start of using the backup provider system.
- Updated positions/new bills are highlighted in yellow. No bills from last month's report were removed.

Bill #	Author	Topic	Summary	CAPA Position
AB 1355	Levine	Medi-Cal: Independent Medical Review System	Would require the State Department of Health Care Services to establish the Independent Medical Review System (IMRS) for the Medi-Cal program, commencing on January 1, 2023.	Watch
AB 1751	Daly	Workers' compensation: COVID-19: critical workers	Current law defines "injury" for an employee to include illness or death resulting from the 2019 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) under specified circumstances, until January 1, 2023. Current law requires an employee to exhaust their paid sick leave benefits and meet specified certification requirements before receiving any temporary disability benefits or, for police officers, firefighters, and other specified employees, a leave of absence. This bill would extend the provisions relating to COVID-19 until January 1, 2025.	Watch
AB 1797	Weber	Immunization registry.	Existing law authorizes local health officers & State Department of Public Health to operate immunization information systems; also allows disclosure of patient or client demographic information, immunization data, adverse reactions to the immunization, or other information needed to identify the patient or client or to comply with other laws. This bill would instead require health care providers and other agencies, to disclose the specified immunization information, and add race or ethnicity to the list of information that shall or may be disclosed.	Watch
AB 1900	Arambula	Medi-Cal: income level for maintenance.	Under current law, certain medically needy persons with higher incomes qualify for Medi-Cal with a share of cost, if they meet specified criteria. Existing law requires income levels for maintenance at the lowest levels that reasonably permit a medically needy person to meet their basic needs. For a single individual, the amount of the income level is based on a calculation of 80% of the highest amount that would ordinarily be paid to a family of 2 persons. This bill would increase the income level for maintenance to be equal to the income limit for Medi-Cal without a share of cost for individuals who are 65 years of age or older or are disabled, generally totaling 138% of the federal poverty level.	Support

AB 1944	Lee	Local government: open and public meetings.	Current law, the Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency, as those terms are defined, be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. Current law, until January 1, 2024, authorizes a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with those specified teleconferencing requirements in specified circumstances when a declared state of emergency is in effect, or in other situations related to public health. This bill would specify that if a member of a legislative body elects to teleconference from a location that is not public, the address does not need to be identified in the notice and agenda or be accessible to the public when the legislative body has elected to allow members to participate via teleconferencing.	Support
AB 2449	Rubio, Blanca	Open meetings: local agencies, teleconferences	This bill would authorize remote participation in local public meetings if at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a location clearly identified on the agenda that is also open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the local agencies. The local agency must post agendas, members of the legislative body attending the meeting by teleconference must participate in both audio and video formats, and members of the public must have call-in and internet-based access for attending and participating in the meetings.	Watch
AB2647	Levine	Local government: open meetings	The Brown Act requires the meetings of the legislative body of a local agency to be conducted openly and publicly, with specified exceptions. Current law makes agendas of public meetings and other writings distributed to the members of the governing board disclosable public records, with certain exceptions and requires a local agency to make those writings distributed to the members of the governing board available for public inspection at a public office or location that the agency designates. This bill would instead require a local agency to make those writings distributed to the members of the governing board available for public inspection at a public office or location that the agency designates or post the writings on the local agency's internet website in a position and manner that makes it clear that the writing relates to an agenda item for an upcoming meeting.	Support
SB 842	Dodd	Health care: medical goods: reuse and redistribution.	Would require the Department of Rehabilitation to establish a comprehensive 3-year pilot program in the Counties of Contra Costa, Napa, Solano, and Yolo to facilitate the reuse and redistribution of durable medical equipment and other home health supplies. The bill would require the department to contract in each county with a local nonprofit agency to oversee the program and require the nonprofit agency to develop a computerized system to track the inventory of equipment and supplies available for	Support

			reuse and redistribution and organize pickup and delivery of equipment and supplies. Requires Department on or before January 1, 2026, to submit a report that includes an evaluation of successes/challenges of the pilot program; bill would repeal its provisions on January 1, 2030.	
SB 861	Limon	Dementia Care Navigator Grant Program.	Would establish the Dementia Care Navigator Grant Program, to be administered by the California Department of Aging, in partnership with organizations with expertise using community health workers, promotors, and health navigators. The bill would require an organization that receives a grant to provide an annual report on the services provided on or before December 31 of the year the grant is received.	Support
SB 1093	Hurtado	Community care facilities: criminal background checks.	This bill removes the requirement that a request to transfer a current criminal record clearance from one licensed community care facility to another be made in writing to the Department of Social Services (CDSS). This bill instead requires the licensee to submit a request for such a transfer via a form provided by CDSS or submission via the department's secure online portal.	Position not needed
SB 1100	Cortese	Open meetings: orderly conduct.	This bill would authorize the presiding member of the legislative body conducting a meeting to remove an individual for willfully interrupting the meeting. And, except as provided, would require removal to be preceded by a warning by the presiding member of the legislative body and request that the individual curtail their disruptive behavior.	Watch

CDSS Updates

Permanent Provider Backup System

- As mentioned in the budget update, the final approved language was shared at the meeting and the key components supported by CAPA and CSAC in the draft bill were approved. The ACL should be released before end of July to meet the 10/1 implementation date.
- Proposed admin funding for PAs has been shared with CSAC and CDSS but is awaiting final approval and the release of the CFL.

Career Pathways

- Santa Clara County Public Authority was awarded/approved to provide classes within Career Pathways in eight (8) different subjects, however there is still no detail on reimbursement rates for classes, admin/translation, etc.
- No additional detail is available regarding which non-profits were awarded a contract to deliver training classes.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- None.
- Discussed the move of the September meeting, out one week, FROM September 20 TO September 27.

***Christine wanted to strongly suggest that we conduct this AB meeting via a hybrid version.*

Next Meeting:

- Next Advisory Board meeting:
Tuesday, August 16, 2022, from 12 noon to 1:30 pm via ZOOM Virtual/Conference call.