

# San Bernardino County IHSS Advisory Committee



784 E Hospitality Ln  
San Bernardino CA 92415  
November 3, 2021 Wednesday  
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Teleconference

## Minutes

### **Members Present**

Flora Martinez  
Celina Rwengo  
Lance Hoshaw  
Sheila Johnson (IHSS)

### **Members Absent**

Marilyn Interian Matey  
Linda Lovett  
Diane Chapman

### **Members of the Public**

Wendy Whitaker (SEIU)  
Nazar Amani  
Habiba Amani  
Randy Schlecht  
Barbara Chastain  
Sharon Swayzer  
Kristie Sepulveda-Burchit

### **Public Authority Staff**

Romina Price  
Myette Christian  
Tannya Munoz

---

# MINUTES

---

1. Meeting took place over the phone via WebEx. Call to order and roll call – 09:13 A.M. Quorum met.

## 2. IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION AND MEMBER REPORT

Introductions:

- Celina Rwengo- Nothing to report.
- Lance Hoshaw- Nothing to report.
- Flora Martinez- Nothing to report as of now.

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Randy Schlecht
  - Would like to reverse bylaws where members who have served their term can no longer be a member of the committee and propose to take one year off and can then reapply to become an IHSS Advisory Committee member. Expressed Barbara, Sharon, and himself would like to be a part of the committee again
- Wendy Whitaker
  - Not much to report at this time
  - Continuing to ask congress how to ensure the federal budget of reconciliation package invest and supports seniors and those living with disabilities
  - Encourages committee members to push congress to pass plan for adequate healthcare for caregivers
- Kristie
  - Recently attended Board of Supervisor meetings since they have been open back up to the public
  - Members of the public informed County employees not receiving COVID pay. She reminds that these employees served the public during the pandemic and would like to bring this information to the Advisory Committee to see if this can be looked into.
  - Signage in the lobby regarding masks. Indicating if you come into the lobby without a mask, you are insinuating you have the COVID vaccine. Stated she has contacted the county offices and they have ensured signs will be taken down.
  - COVID Vaccine Mandate- please ensure that providers are aware of exemptions such as for medical or religious reasons
  - Agrees with Randy regarding the bylaws. Indicating once your term with the committee has ended then you can no longer apply again to be a member. This

was actually created by County Counsel. Hopefully this can be reversed since it has been difficult for the past meetings to meet a quorum.

- Encourages members to bring this item forth to the next Board of Supervisors meeting for support
- Randy asked for next BOS meeting date and Kristie replied next date is 11/16/2021.

#### 4. IHSS PUBLIC AUTHORITY REPORT-Rosa Hidalgo/Myette Christian

- Myette Christian

- Continue to have a high demand for registry.
- Encourage committee to share with others that the PA is currently recruiting for the registry. Preferably needing more providers for the Yucca Valley region and Yucaipa
- Transition to BOUNDS seem to be running smoothly
- PA has collaborated with SEIU to ensure the providers are participating in the Union presentation. Meaning once the provider is linked with the client, the provider will receive an email notification from the Union with a Zoom link to view the presentation and discuss benefits in hopes of providers signing up for the Union.
- Informed there are additional funds available for Health Benefits so if anyone knows of caregivers who are not receiving health benefits to call and inquire about benefits. Be sure to look for notifications from the health benefits insurer regarding to sign up and or eligibility requirements.
- Tannya: added that providers who work 80 hours or more consecutively per month are eligible and can contact Dublin Insurance to discuss health plan options for Kaiser or Blue Shield.
- Myette: Proposed to committee if is acceptable to post AC flyers in the outer IHSS offices and or insert flyers and AC applications in registry mass mailers to hopefully recruit members.
- All members approved
- Flora: asked Myette to clarify for AC members who have exhausted their term if they are able to reappoint to the committee.
- Myette: referred to the Handbook for Members for Advisory Board, Commission, and Committees, a county manual.
- Tannya: informed that former members are welcome to attend as guest and can speak during Public Comment.
- Flora: asked this question because with previous members it was more robust and very proactive opposed to now. In addition will like to proceed to go to the Board to see if this can be reversed.
- Myette: encourages to focus on recruiting and find ways to get more people involved.

#### 5. DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES REPORT

- Sheila Johnson:

- Reported 36,000 active cases in San Bernardino
- As of September there were a total of 1200 new referrals
- Average caseload is 374 cases
- Public Guardian website has Holiday Resource List available including food distribution for Thanksgiving baskets, Christmas baskets, Christmas toy giveaways, etc.
- MSSP
  - Designed for individuals needing intense case management, chronic medical conditions, and risk of placement
  - Extended zip code coverage to Yucca Valley
  - Typically they have up to 266 slots available but now with the extension of coverage they are allowing up to 345
  - Eligible to seniors 65 years of age and older
  - ACL 21-91 released 9/29
    - Regarding enable and available spouse and how it is considered in conjunction with IHSS.
    - Agrees that it is a much needed tool for IHSS caseworkers
    - Flora: can you please clarify meaning of enable and available spouse.
    - Sheila: for example there is a married couple in which one of them applies for IHSS services and the other will be the caretaker. For certain services that are approved such as meal preparations, would be looked upon as a spousal duty and no time would be given. So this ACL will give more of clarification to the IHSS case workers when doing assessments.
    - Flora: can you provide any knowledge or information on COVID pay for employees that Kristie mentioned earlier in the meeting.
    - Shelia: as far as we know it is currently being handled with HR and the Board of Supervisors and awaiting for the outcome. However will share, if possible, any information that is received.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- Workshops:
  - Flora informed that she attended a few of these workshops and that they are very informative. In addition meetings do not require a fee so it is free for anyone to attend.
  - CFILC and DO network—“IHSS Advocacy and Organizing Series”
    - 4 Sessions/Registration
    - Sep 15, Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 15 1:30-3pm (Webinar).
  - California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA)—“Medicare for All” Listening Session
    - Friday November 12, 2021, 12-1:30pm (Webinar)

- IHSS Advisory Committee Officer nomination/election (Article; Bylaws 4.2)
  - Flora: According to the bylaws, nominations for seats such as chair, vice chair, and committees should be voted now so that the new positions will be in effect starting January.
  - Motioned to members if you would like to put these nominations on hold since we do not have enough members at this time.
    - Lance: agrees that committee should wait
    - Celina: also agrees and hopefully before that time can vote in new members from the new applicants just to increase membership.
  
- Removing item to Approve Minutes per Brown Act Training
  - Flora: According to Brown Act Training it is not required to place minutes on agenda for the body of the committee's approval, however, it should be placed for members to review for accuracy and what has transpired from the previous meeting.
  - Romina Price: Informed that according to materials the minutes cannot be discussed during the meeting, however, agreed in not finding anything to indicate minutes cannot be reviewed for accuracy.
  - Flora: stated that this is correct and that we can only discuss corrections to be made if necessary. Therefore proposed to add minutes from September 8<sup>th</sup> and this meeting November 3<sup>rd</sup> to the agenda for January to have for transparency purposes.
  
- Resources/Information: Flora provides links below and hopes other members can benefit from resources.
  - Information Regarding the “Better Care Better Jobs Act”—Fact Sheet
  - Justice in Aging Fact Sheet—“Why Older Adults Need Bold Investment in Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)
  - Justice in Aging—“Investing in Medicaid HCBS is Good for Medicare”
    - Justice in Aging Fact Sheet—“Important Health Care Changes Coming in 2022 for Low-Income Older Californians.
  - Justice in Aging Fact Sheet—“2021 Summary of Bills Related to the Master Plan for Aging”
  - Justice in Aging Fact Sheet—“Adding Dental to Medicare Part B”
  - National Center on Law & Elder Rights—“Important Change for SSI Recipients and Applicants”
  - California Health & Human Services Agency—“Guiding Principles”
  - California Budget Project—“Dollars and Democracy: A guide to the State Budget Process”

- -Senate Publications—“The Budget Process”, A Citizens Guide to Participation
- -California Department of Public Health (CDPH)—“Adult Care Facilities and Direct -Care Worker Vaccine Requirement”
- COVID-19 DAAS Elderly Nutrition Program—“Congregate Meal Sites”
- CICA/CFILC/CDCAN Emails and Announcements
- ACL and ACIN Information

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

- CICA dues update/roster submission
  - New invoice of 700.00 which includes increase of 200.00
  - Flora: motioned to pay dues
    - Celina 2nd motion
- Draft Letter to Board of Supervisors requesting Spanish Translation for the IHSSAC application
  - Flora asked for any recommendations to add
  - Tannya: asked if this is informing the Board to translate application or for the Committee to translate.
  - Flora: that it would be to have authorization from the Board for the Committee to translate application.
  - Flora motion to approve letter:
    - All members approved.
  - Myette: We will try to expedite the process as best as we can when submitting letter to the Board of Supervisors

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

- Fiscal report-Fiscal Year (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)
  - Romina states no changes to the budget report except for stipends from the September meeting leaving budget of 5,796.00
  - Translation Equipment estimated to 700.00
    - Flora motion to approve purchase of translation equipment to not exceed 750.00
    - Sheila 2<sup>nd</sup> motioned
    - Flora: asked committee for recommendations on how to use remaining budget, such as for trainings or supplies. This would be also be helpful for when we return to in person meetings.
- Letter to committee members who are absent thanking them for their service
  - Flora: proposed to PA if this is something that can be done to remove members that are no longer active within the committee.
  - Tannya: informed that PA can do this upon members voting for this item.
  - Flora motioned to vote:

- Celina motioned, Lance 2<sup>nd</sup> motion
  - Flora states that there are 3 members inactive and 1 that has stepped down, leaving a total of 4 members unavailable. There are 7 new applications that were received. 6 of the applicants are providers and only one is a client.
  - Tannya: reminded that more recipients are needed
  - Myette: will follow up if bylaw can be reversed if once a member, you cannot be a member again.
  - Flora: asked if committee will continue to have meetings via web-ex or can transition to in person meetings
  - Myette suggest that January meeting can be in person as there are other department meetings taking place in person.
  - Flora: stated that per previous discussion it was voted to revisit topic of in person meeting during January's meeting. Therefore the last web-ex meeting could hopefully be January depending how the body votes.
- Review Applications from New Applicants
  - Romina did roll call for new applicants present
  - Only 2 out of the 7 applicants which was recipient Nazar Amani and provider Habiba Amani
    - Habiba: state she has been a provider for 5 years
    - Flora: asked Habiba if in person meetings will be an issue
    - Habiba: will not be difficult for her, however, for Nazar it would be difficult as he is wheel chair bound
    - Tannya: can he perhaps use a cell phone to join remotely
    - Habiba: he would need assistance joining in by phone
    - Myette: asked Habiba if she will be representing Nazar or will it just be her joining the committee
    - Habiba: she would like to join but Nazar is excited of joining as well ever since he received the letter in the mail.
    - Nazar also said a few words in wanting to be a part of the committee
    - Flora: thanked Habiba and Nazar for their interest and feedback in joining the committee and committee will now have further discussion. Please await to hear from PA in moving forward with the membership process. As of now only Committee members and PA will be on the line to discuss voting in new members.
    - New applicants and Members of the Public left the meeting.
  - AC members and PA reviewed new applications
    - After discussion, members agreed to place voting in new applicants on hold to see if more new applications are received
- Proposed meeting dates for IHSSAC Calendar year 2022
  - 1/12/21, 3/3/21, 5/4/21, 7/13/21, and 9/7/21
  - Flora asked Celina and Lance for input and motioned to approve.
  - Sheila motioned, Celina 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

- Recruitment
  - Romina informed that members Flora and Celina has come by to the office to assist folding letters and applications.
  - Informed that we will mail to only recipients instead of providers as we need more recipients.
  - Celina and Flora offered to continue to help fold remaining letters and will contact Romina to set a date.
  - Sheila offered to assist if we can interoffice letters and applications to her
  - Flora: asked PA for members volunteering that come in, if they can be reimbursed for mileage.
  - Tannya stated yes and this can be added onto the stipend

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 10:57am