

**IHSS Public Authority Advisory Board
Meeting of July 15, 2008
MINUTES**

Members Present: Sondra Corday, Bharat Desai, JoAnn Disbrow, Cindy Faulkner, David Julian, Kai Lu, Bonnie Mellow, Shannon Odom, Richard Patterson, Jim Ramoni (ex-officio), Janie Whiteford

Members Absent: Dora Castro

Staff Present: Laura Gallegos, Ross Graham, Mary Tinker

Approve Minutes: June minutes approved as written.

Announcements & Public Comment: Janie Whiteford announced the upcoming CDCAN town hall telemeeting scheduled for July 15th at 1:00 P.M. information for calling in can be obtained at www.cdcan.us

Richard Patterson reported the meeting with Senator Alquist went okay he indicated the message regarding the proposed budget cuts was presented in a global articulate manner but did not seem like it was well prepared. No one from the Mercury News or main stream media showed up for the event. Several other Advisory Board members attended.

SEIU Union Issues Report Back: Janie Whiteford reported she was invited as the Chair of CICA to speak at the SEIU state hearing held in Los Angeles regarding the importance of consumer voice in IHSS. There were over 1,000 people in attendance many of whom were from the national SEIU office. There is a split within the union regarding the implementation of one statewide union which started two years ago. SEIU Local 521 (Local 715 two years ago) who represents workers in Santa Clara County fought the plan two years ago and are still against it. There was an agreement to revisit the plan in two years at which time both sides agreed to accomplish certain milestones. The meeting was to provide opportunity to give testimony and permit an objective adjudicator to hear concerns from both sides and make a final decision. Many people have concerns that a statewide SEIU would cause consumers and providers to lose their voice in IHSS. IHSS is a consumer driven program and the hospital and nursing facility workers are part of the medical model. This is cause for great concern by many people.

Advisory Board Strategic Planning Recommendation/Discussion: Janie Whiteford reminded the group it has been three years since the last strategic planning session was completed. There was consensus of the group to schedule a two day strategic planning session. Proposed dates are October 13 and 14.

CAPA Report: Mary Tinker reported that CAPA held its regular meeting June 26th in Sacramento. Staff from the California Department of Social Services attended a portion of the meeting to answer questions. CAPA informed the state staff that the draft County Fiscal Letter (CFL) regarding IHSS Advisory Committee expenditures is acceptable in its current format to our membership.

CAPA also discussed with the state concerns regarding the draft version of the provider enrollment form. Concerns expressed included the complicated nature of the questions, the decision to take a one page document and turn it into several pages and requiring a notary for signatures. Apparently the state has been working with another department who works closely with CMS and the requirements are much more stringent for Medi-Cal providers so the process has become very cumbersome. The state staff assured CAPA they are doing all they can to try to simplify the final document.

AB 851 (Brownley, D-Santa Monica – Working Disabled) Authorizes individuals who are otherwise eligible under the Medi-Cal program which provides basic health care services for employed individuals with disabilities who meet income and resource requirements but are temporarily unemployed to elect to remain on the program for up to 52 weeks. Provides additional resource exemptions in determining eligibility under the program.
Status: Senate Appropriations Suspense File. CAPA Position: Support

AB 1674 (Jones D-Sacramento) –Pilot to allow IHSS recipients the choice of receiving services through a PA or a nonprofit or proprietary agency)
Requires the Department of Social Services to conduct a pilot project in 5 consenting counties to receive services either through the public authority or a contracting nonprofit or proprietary agency. To qualify, a county must administer the IHSS program through a public authority to at least 1,000 recipients. Requires the pilot project to be monitored by each participating county's IHSS advisory committee.
Status: Senate 3rd Reading. CAPA Position: Watch.

AB 2038 (Lieber - Persons With Disabilities: Victims of Crime)
Redefines “dependent adult” with the phrase “adult with a disability” and makes other changes to current law in order to strengthen enforcement of “hate crime” statutes as they apply to people with disabilities.
Status: Senate Appropriations. CAPA Position: Support

AB 2139 (De La Torre – Auto Insurance: In-Home Supportive Services)
Prohibits an auto liability policy from containing any provision that expressly or impliedly excludes from coverage under the policy the operation or use of an insured motor vehicle by the named insured in the performance of any in-home supportive services. Prohibits a vehicle covered under an auto liability policy from being classified as a common carrier, livery, or for-hire vehicle when used to supply in-home supportive services.
Status: Senate 3rd Reading. CAPA Position: Support

AB 2635 (Beall – Severe Disabilities: State Employment)
Requires the State Personnel Board, in consultation with the Department of Rehabilitation, to establish a Supported Employment Examination and Appointment Program to provide state

employment opportunities for qualified individuals with severe disabilities.

Status: Senate Appropriations – Hearing scheduled 7/14. CAPA Position: Support

AB 2716 (Ma - Employment: Paid Sick Leave)

Requires employers to provide paid sick time, upon the request of the employee, for diagnosis, care, or treatment of health conditions of the employee or an employees family member, or for leave related to domestic violence or sexual assault. Provides that an employer would be prohibited from discriminating or retaliating against an employee who requests paid sick time.

STATUS: Senate Appropriations. CAPA Position: Oppose

SB 434 (Romero, D-Los Angeles – IHSS wages & benefits)

Revises the formula for state participation in In-Home Supportive Service Program providers wage and benefit increases.

Status: Assembly Third Reading. CAPA Position: Watch.

SB 483 (Kuehl – Medi-Cal Home and Facility Care)

Requires any applicant for, or recipient of, Medi-Cal benefits who requests medical assistance for home and facility care, to meet the specific eligibility requirements. Requires an individual, as a condition of eligibility for medical assistance for home and facility care, to disclose an interest that they or their spouse have in an annuity and requires the state, as an operation of law, to become a remainder beneficiary. Provides an undue hardship exception for medical assistance denial.

Status: Assembly Appropriations. CAPA Position: Support

CA SB 1198 (Kuehl – Health Care Coverage: Durable Medical Equipment)

Requires a health care service plan and a health insurer to offer coverage for durable medical equipment as part of their group plan contracts or group policies.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Suspense File. CAPA Position: Support

US S 2708 (Boxer – Care for Older Americans)

Attracts and retains trained health care professionals and direct care workers dedicated to providing quality care to the growing population of older Americans.

Status: Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. CAPA Position: Support

Programs Report: Mary Tinker reported there are 785 active IPs listed on the registry with 60 new client intakes, 35 matches and 8 individual interviewed to join the registry. The Hard-to-Serve component of the registry received 10 new consumer intakes, obtained 17 matches and provided 293 interventions. The Urgent Care Registry authorized 51 hours of service for the month of June.

There were 5,668 IPs enrolled in the Valley Health Plan and 6,200 IPs enrolled in the Dental/Vision plans during the month of June.

Provider Training: Five classes were offered during the month of June training 37 IPs. However one class was cancelled due to the low number of individuals enrolled. Actual sessions provided were:

- Mental Health (aging process, depression, suicide) offered in Spanish with 6 participants
- Mental Health (aging process, depression, suicide) offered in English with 21 participants
- CPR offered in Spanish with 5 participants
- Caregiver Resources offered in Spanish with 5 participants
- First Aid offered in Spanish was cancelled due to too few enrollments

California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA) Report: Janie Whiteford reported the statewide CICA call is scheduled for July 16th 10:00 a.m. all Advisory Board Members are encouraged to call in. This is the start of a new fiscal year and CICA will begin sending dues requests to Advisory Committees. Copies of the CICA newsletter were distributed to all in attendance.

CICA sent a letter to the state in response to the draft CFL regarding AB 1682 funds voicing concerns with some of the language of the document. State staff contacted Janie indicating they are reviewing the comments and taking them in to consideration. Janie indicated her opinion is that Advisory Committees should have responsibility to budget the money. She also reminded the group that in Santa Clara County this Advisory Board has never had problems accessing the funds but this is not the case in many other counties.

Report from Social Services Agency: Jim Ramoni expressed appreciation to the Advisory Board members who participated in Senator's Alquist's press conference event. It was well attended and was a good event.

Jim reported a State letter was issued to all counties regarding the heat emergency during the heat wave. He has the ability to run a list of people over 18 and receiving paramedical assistance and call these people to ensure they are not in need of additional help. This list is manageable with 90 individuals who are the most vulnerable consumers on IHSS. There is no way to code people in CMIPS to identify who would be in need of help during a heat wave and with over 14,000 consumers the task of calling all of them could not be accomplished. The Public Authority has put information in newsletters regarding how to deal with excessive heat and prevent related illness.

IHSS logged over 800 phone calls yesterday. Jim indicated he discovered IPs with direct deposit are not getting their timesheets mailed to them. He will be checking with other counties to see if this is a statewide problem or contained to our county and will be in touch with the appropriate people to find a solution to the issue.

The intake flex unit pilot ends this month. Currently there is no new application backlog. When the unit was first established there was a backlog of 1,200 the flex unit worked well and cleared

it up. IHSS still has extra help staff through December; this helps tremendously in keeping up with the workload.

Ad-hoc Committee to Develop Recommendations: Janie Whiteford asked for volunteers to participate on a short term committee to develop recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. This is an important mandate of the Advisory Board and will be placed in the annual report document and presented to the Board in October. Volunteers were: Janie, David, JoAnn, Bonnie, Kai, and Ross and Mary will participate as staff.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for August 19, 2008 from 11:30-1:30 PM. at **Council on Aging, 2115 The Alameda, San Jose, CA 95126.**