

IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

January 2015



Eggs Can Be Dangerous!

by Marie Cocharn IHSSAC Member

"Eggs can be dangerous" the recipe said, 7 minutes boiling time, watch carefully. In a pan of water, I placed two eggs and turned on the burner anticipating two perfect hard-boiled eggs to be used as garnish for my favorite salad.

I stepped out of the kitchen and became distracted. I was brought back to the kitchen by an explosive sound. I found a dry burned black pan, the fire still going and my two eggs fragmented in "tiny-tiny" pieces all over my stove, refrigerator, sink and floor. It took most of the day to get the kitchen cleaned.

Needless to say my salad had no garnish and I came to realize the warning was correct "eggs can be dangerous".



If you would like to find out more about being an IHSSAC Member please visit the Committee's Website at www.stancounty.com/IHSSAC

A link to applications is available at the site. All IHSSAC Members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

We are currently accepting applications for IHSS Consumers.

Over Time

In September 2013 the United States Department of Labor (DOL) Wage and Hour Division released its amended regulations to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) regarding Companionship Services. The revised regulations, to go in effect on January 1, 2015, provided that IHSS Providers would be eligible for overtime pay, travel time pay and additional time for waiting for the IHSS Recipient at medical appointments. On December 22, 2014, US District Court Judge Richard Leon issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) stopping overtime from being implemented. In a final ruling on January 14, 2015 the Judge invalidated the DOL's changes to its rules regarding home care workers. Because of the Court's action federal requirements for **overtime will not go into effect.**



Budget Highlights

In January 2015, the Governor released his January Budget proposal; in the Budget the State indicated that it would restore the 7% across-the-board IHSS Recipient hour reduction.

The Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) which is designed to serve persons eligible for both Medicaid and Medi-Cal (dual eligible) has had a few issues.

The pilot project was intended to operate in eight counties: Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo and Santa Clara. There have been a few issues that cloud whether CCI will be a viable option, they include: a delay in passive enrollment, Alameda County no longer participate in CCI, Orange County will delay passive enrollment until July 2015, savings were half of anticipated levels, the managed care tax, which was needed to fund the project was ruled inconsistent with federal regulations and 69% of eligible participants have opted out of the demonstration project.

What does this mean, if CCI is deemed not to be cost-effective the program would

automatically cease to operate; meaning that the shift of collective bargaining to the State for IHSS Provider wages and benefits would stop as well as the County Maintenance of Effort (MOE) which is the current funding mechanism for the IHSS Program at the local level. The State remains committed to implementing the CCI to the extent it can continue to generate program savings. Over the course of the next year, the State will seek ways to improve participation and lower State costs.

Important Numbers

IHSS Intake	558-2637
IHSS Payroll	558-3976
Public Authority	558-1650
APS	558-2637

W2's

For the 2014 calendar year, W-2's will be mailed no later than January 31, 2015 to all providers who earned an income in the year 2014. Duplicate or replacements can be requested after February 23, 2015.

Additional Check

Some IHSS Providers will receive an additional check with no timesheet attached or any details as what the check is for. This check part of the IHSS Provider annual tax reconciliation process, whereby the over collection of FICA, Medicare or SDI payroll deductions is correct. IHSS Providers may cash the check, as it a correction for a previous over collection.