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**STANISLAUS COUNTY  
IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
07/14/06**

Committee Members Present:

Jose Acosta  
Rose Martin  
Linda White

Madelyn Amaral  
Connie Muller

Joan Blackwell  
George Sharp

Committee Members Absent:

\*Kenny Brown

Mary Burch

\*Ora Scruggs

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Dwight Bateman

IHSS Staff Present:

Maria Childers  
Veronica Melgoza

Jeff Lambaren

Egon Stammler

*\*Advance notice given.*

**OPENING REMARKS by Kenny Brown**

- Meeting called to order at 1:05pm

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Supervisor Jim De Martini attended the meeting

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

- June 9, 2006 minutes: Motion M/S/A to accept minutes, motion made to accept by Connie Muller and seconded by Joan Blackwell.

## **PUBLIC AUTHORITY**

- Jeff Lambaren stated that open enrollment went well. Pacific Care was retained for medical, Safeguard was chosen for dental and vision was added also with Safeguard. There is funding for 590 individuals to receive benefits. Letters went out to those who are eligible but couldn't make it in to open enrollment.
- Jeff Lambaren announced that 342 providers re-enrolled for health insurance.
- Madelyn Amaral asked if someone could just get vision coverage. Providers have to take all, it's a package.
- Jeff Lambaren announced that Union negotiations should start in August. Contracts have been exchanged and are waiting for final contracts to be signed.
- Jeff Lambaren stated that they are working on developing an in house provider training. At this time we are contracted with the Center for Senior Employment. We will require training for the registry providers; we want the providers to know how that program works. They will see how to fill out their timesheets, how a social worker assesses the clients. Providers will get hands on training; we are talking about contracting with HSA to get some nursing training and nutritional training. Providers would learn how to prepare special meals for those with special diet needs. Providers would get some exposure to different things.
- Jeff Lambaren announced that the second version of the Newsletter is being printed and will be going out soon.
- Jeff Lambaren stated to the members who wish to continue in any capacity on the committee need to attend the Ethical Training by January 2007. The next training is on August 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm-8:00pm, in the BOS chambers. You don't have to sign but if you do your certificate will already be made out for you.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

- George Sharp stated that the latest information he has is as of July 07– AB 2486-Senator Thomas- The In-Home Supportive Services Criminal Background Checks. This bill passed out of the senate judiciary and is in the senate appropriations committee to be heard after August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- AB 2494- Thomas – In-Home Supportive Services Provider Training. This bill passed out of the senate judiciary and is in the senate appropriations committee to be heard after August 7<sup>th</sup>. The committee can contact the senators on appropriations committee by a letter supporting this bill.
- AB 2536 – Assemblyman Montanez – Employment minimum wage and overtime compensation. This bill did pass out of the senate judiciary and is in the senate appropriations committee to be heard after August 7<sup>th</sup>. The chair of the judiciary indicated that it would not pass out of appropriations without amendments. This is the controversial overtime bill for anyone that is not on IHSS that is private pay. We are waiting on the amendments on this bill.
- AB 3019 – Assemblywoman Dousher – Medical Community Options and Assessment Protocol. This bill is in the Senate appropriations committee to be heard after August 7<sup>th</sup>. To minimize duplication and redundancy of multiple assessments, this is a direct Olmstead bill.
- SB 1660- Senator Romero – In Home Supportive Services Provider Wage Benefit Increase. This bill will be presented to the Assembly Appropriations committee on August 9<sup>th</sup>. This bill will eliminate the formula for State participation and IHSS provider wage benefit increase and would instead provide generally that the state shall pay 65% of the non federal share of wages and benefits negotiated by the Public Authority or nonprofit consortium and associated employment taxes. Jeff Lambaren stated that the difference between the proposed legislation and the current legislation is currently there is a cap; the State will participate up to \$11.10 an hour. This would basically remove that cap. Currently the only way the cap increases is if there is a 5% growth in the States general funds, revenue, in order to trigger the next dollar of participation.
- SB 840- Senator Kule-Single Payer Health Care Coverage – This bill will need to be presented to the Assembly Floor after August 7<sup>th</sup>. This is the Health Care for all in California using the single payer system. This bill is in its second year, this one will have a tough time passing because of the money implications.
- Jeff Lambaren announced AB 1835 - Minimum Wage – It is pretty much agreed that the minimum wage will be increased but the difference is, whether it's going to have an automatic COLA or not. They will

make the determination that will be presented to the Governor whether it includes the automatic cost of living increase or if it's a two part minimum wage increase.

- Berg Bill which would reorganize Adult Services has been withdrawn by the Author.
- AB 2469 – Evans – Small County Realignment, it would change the method for realignment. There were two arguments, it would change the formula that is working, it would keep the realignment money off the budget, could roll over into general fund issue. The second argument is that it would put IHSS above the other entities that received realignment funds.
- AB 2494- Provider Training, providers could receive up to 6 additional hours for training. The Union is sponsoring this bill as well as Public Authority. This would allow Social Workers and other licensed professionals to train IHSS providers. Providers leaving clients with special needs could also train the incoming provider.
- Jeff Lambaren announced that SCR 84 would recognize May as Older American Month and SCR 86 would proclaim the week of September 10<sup>th</sup> through September 16<sup>th</sup> as Assisted Living Week.

### **BUDGET STATE UPDATE**

- In recess right now

### **IHSS COMMITTEE'S BUDGET UPDATE**

- Jeff Lambaren stated that we are in the new fiscal year, now is the time to start planning the projects you are interested in.

### **EX-OFFICIO MEMBER UPDATE**

- Jeff stated that the draft he made was to be reviewed by the members at home. This will be brought back for discussion at next meeting.

### **CLIENT TRAINING TAPES**

- Jeff Lambaren stated that the Public Authority as a group purchased the DVD that was made for Santa Clara County. They are excellent tapes; it shows a day in the life of IHSS, shows what it's like to be a provider. The tape will be shown to the registry providers.

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

- Jeff Lambaren passed out the annual report; the committee will present the report to the Board of Supervisors before it is distributed. George Sharp, Rose Martin and Madelyn would like to attend when the report is presented to the Board of Supervisors. Jeff Lambaren will get a couple of dates and let the members know so they can attend.
- Committee members were very please with the report, Jennifer De Santo did a great job.

### **HOT TOPICS**

- Madelyn Amaral stated that she heard that the illegal immigration issue is going to affect workers in the In-Home Supportive Services Department. A lot of workers may be here illegally.
- Maria Childers stated that all the providers that sign up with In-Home Supportive Services have to have a valid social security number. All social security numbers are checked and if a number comes back as an invalid number CMIPS will reject it. Providers are told they can not be paid from then on until they provide legal documentation.
- Maria Childers passed out a memo on Medicare Consumer Alert to committee members.

## **GENERAL UPDATE**

- Madelyn Amaral showed the committee an add that showed providers getting anywhere from \$10.50-13.50 an hour. Jeff Lambaren stated that the workers don't necessarily get that amount. Madelyn Amaral stated that other Counties get \$9.50-\$10.00 an hour. Jeff Lambaren stated that the State average is like \$7.70, the Bay area counties all pay much more.
- Connie Muller asked about the business cards that the committee has agreed to get. The business cards will be a generic card with a space for members to write their names on them.

Meeting adjourned @ 2:18 PM  
Veronica Melgoza, Recorder

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Room 352-G  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201



Office of External Affairs

## MEDICARE CONSUMER ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, June 16, 2006

Contact: CMS Media Affairs  
(202) 690-6145

### **MEDICARE FIGHTS AGAINST NEW SCHEMES TO DEFRAUD BENEFICIARIES** **Medicare Beneficiaries Warned To Be Aware of Telephone Scams** **Surrounding New Medicare Drug Benefit**

The "\$299 Ring" scheme to defraud seniors and people with disabilities has changed into a higher priced scam involving in some cases a new Medicare card, instead of a prescription drug plan.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) said today the dollar amount now requested by phone callers is usually \$379, but cases have also occurred where the callers asked for \$350 or \$365. Medicare has already referred nearly 250 cases involving attempts to steal beneficiaries' funds to federal law enforcement officials. These are pending further action.

"By getting the message out to Medicare beneficiaries about how they can avoid scams, we've seen the number of incidents go down," said CMS Administrator Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D. "To protect all people with Medicare from being victimized, we are taking further steps to prevent, identify and help law enforcement officials apprehend these scam artists. And, if you think you may be a victim, call 1-877-7SAFERX."

The reported incidence of people with Medicare falling victim to these scams, by actually paying money, has decreased from 51 percent of the cases reported between Nov. 15, 2005, and April 30, 2006, to 25 percent between May 1, 2006, and June 7, 2006.

As part of the new scams, callers are now asking for bank information or telling beneficiaries they can provide a new Medicare card for a fee. Similar to the reported "\$299 Ring," callers asked Medicare beneficiaries for bank account numbers that the callers use to electronically withdraw the money. The new Medicare card or prescription drug plan they claim to be selling is not legitimate.

Callers may use the names of fictitious companies, such as **Pharma Corp., National Medical Office, Medicare National Office and National Medicare.**

- More -

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It is against Medicare's rules to call a person with Medicare and ask for bank account or other personal information, or cash payment, over the telephone. No beneficiary should ever provide that kind of information to someone who calls them. Such calls must be placed by the beneficiaries themselves or handled by a follow-up letter to which the beneficiary may choose to reply. If someone calls asking for personal information, or the call doesn't seem right for some other reason, a beneficiary should hang up the phone and contact Medicare at 1-877-7SAFERX (1-877-772-3379) or his or her local law enforcement or consumer protection agency.

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#### **Tips for People with Medicare to Protect Against Scams**

Medicare beneficiaries can take steps to protect themselves by remembering:

- „ No one can come into your house uninvited.
- „ No one can ask you for personal information during their marketing activities.
- „ Always keep all personal information, such as your Medicare number, safe, just as you would a credit card or a bank account number.
- „ Whenever you have a question or concern about any activity regarding Medicare, call 1-877-7SAFERX (1-877-772-3379).
- „ Legitimate Medicare drug plans will not ask for payment over the telephone or the Internet. They must send a bill to the beneficiary for the monthly premium.
- „ Beneficiaries can pay automatically by setting up a monthly withdrawal from their Social Security check. Beneficiaries may also pay by monthly check or set up an automatic withdrawal from a bank account, but beneficiaries must call their plan or respond to a mailed payment request from the plan to do this.