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**STANISLAUS COUNTY  
IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
03/09/07**

Committee Members Present:

Jose Acosta	Dwight Bateman	Joan Blackwell
George Sharp	Mary Burch	Rose Martin
Connie Muller	Linda White	

Committee Members Absent:

\*Kenny Brown

IHSS & Link2Care Staff Present:

Maria Childers	Jeff Lambaren	Robert Taylor
Jennifer DeSanto		

\*Advance notice given.

**OPENING REMARKS by Linda White**

- Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- None

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

- February 9, 2007 minutes: Motion M/S/A to accept minutes, motion to accept made by Dwight Bateman, seconded, motion passed.

**PUBLIC AUTHORITY**

- Jeff Lambaren announced that Ora Scruggs had passed away on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Members felt a memorial page should be placed in the Advisory Committee's Annual Report. Dwight suggested sending a floral arrangement to her memorial service. Jeff will get information regarding the services to be held.



- Discussion to recognize Madelyn Amaral for her service to the Advisory Committee was discussed. Jeff spoke with the Clerk of the Board, and found that this type of recognition is not typically done through the Board. Mary Burch stated she had spoken with Madelyn, and Madelyn had requested no recognition be given. It was decided by the committee that a recognition would be placed in the Annual Report only.
- Jeff brought to the committee some questions Link2Care had regarding background results that were considered minor infractions or had mitigating circumstances. The example was given of a provider who wanted to be on the registry, but had a conviction of petty theft. The provider explanation was that her two year old grandson had placed something in her purse without her knowledge, and she was convicted of shoplifting. Dwight stated he felt the committee could review any cases Link2Care felt might be questionable. George stated the length of time since conviction, circumstances, and up front honesty about past actions were all considerations for him as a recipient. The committee agreed that reviewing these cases at meetings would be appropriate. When reviewing the cases, the committee requested to see the police report, name of prosecuting district attorney, location, and details of incident. Jeff will bring these cases to the committee for review as they occur.
- The IHSSAC Survey Reports were delivered the first week of March. A copy of the Provider and Recipient survey results were given to each member. Jeff reviewed the results of the Provider report with the committee and briefly gave an overview of the Recipient report. Jeff made a recommendation that voicemail messages by IHSS staff be changed to reflect a reasonable length of time a recipient and provider could expect a return call, since the survey indicated low numbers in the area of staff returning calls. Dwight requested we find out how many hits the IHSS Advisory Committee website receives, since the survey indicates website use is low. There was discussion regarding the demographic portion of the Provider survey, which indicated that Spanish speakers were more likely to find the services of high quality, but did not score as high as English speakers when asked if they felt they were well trained for the job. Jeff reported we have recently purchased Spanish versions of the training videos, and Link2Care is working on Spanish curriculum for the training course. Dwight indicated that DRAIL could also work to translate the materials used for their portion of the provider training as well.

## **BYLAWS**

- Jeff handed out a revised draft of the bylaws to committee members. Changes were reviewed. Dwight asked if the Advisory Committee could hold a position in opposition to the Board of Supervisors. Discussion ensued. Jeff felt that the Committee could hold a different position since they are advisory and are not required to keep consensus with the Board. This was not a clear cut issue however, so a definitive answer could not be reached at this meeting.
- Minor format changes were suggested. Dwight Bateman moved to approve the bylaws, Connie Muller seconded, motion passed.

## **CICA CONFERENCE**

- Jennifer reported that the block of hotel rooms reserved for the CICA meeting in June had already been filled, and no handicap accessible rooms were available. There was a room at Homewood Suites, 1.1 mile from the conference location that still had one handicapped accessible room left. Jennifer requested that if any additional members wished to attend, please let her know today so a room could be reserved. Most members indicated they would not be attending this year. A room had been reserved for Dwight, but his reservation may be changed based on his preferences – Jennifer will investigate this for him.

## **LEGISLATION**

- George Sharp reported that there is a lot of legislation directly and indirectly related to IHSS services. His position is that they will wait until later in the year to target and report on specific legislation to see which bills emerge through the system as viable.
- S401 was introduced under a new bill – the Community Choices Act S799. There are some minor changes, such as the addition of Medicare.
- Many state bills have been introduced. AB238 requires reading to blind or visually impaired individuals to become a paid task for IHSS providers. AB 459 allows the PA's to charge for background checks. AB979 is the Dept. of Social Services seeking funding for IHSS Provider Training. AB182 is requesting

standardized materials for counties throughout the state. AB1386 is seeking to further define the terms “Accompany to Doctor” and “Accompany to Alternative Resources”.

- SB782 was proposed by Senator Cogdill, and proposes a wage freeze for IHSS wages.
- There is also a bill that prohibits a fee from being charged to the IHSS Provider for fingerprinting.
- George reported he will be unable to attend the IHSSAC Meeting next month.
- AB374 is “back”, this was the Physician Assisted Suicide bill. A conference call is being held next Friday, and anyone is welcome to participate – call George or DRAIL for more information.

#### **GENERAL UPDATE**

- Connie Muller distributed information on rates for the Penny Saver. The rates were reasonable, and Connie suggested putting in advertising for caregivers needed, training available, etc. The committee requested a draft be brought to the next meeting.
- Maria Childers had a general update on the pilot project for mediation processes that was to be tested out in a few counties (Stanislaus had been chosen to participate). Judge Levy was going to present information regarding this at one of the committee meetings, but the project will now be taking place in only one district in LA due to budgeting issues.

Note: Mary Burch excused herself at 2:05pm, just after the discussion regarding the IHSS AC Provider Survey.  
Dwight Bateman excused himself at 2:15pm, just after the discussion regarding the CICA Conference.

Meeting adjourned @ 2:30 PM  
Jennifer DeSanto, Recorder