COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY

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STANISLAUS COUNTY **IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING** MINUTES 2/08/08

Kenny Brown **Committee Members Present:** Connie Muller Joan Blackwell Marie Cochran Jose Acosta Committee Members Absent: Mary Burch Valerie Mitchell* IHSS & Link2Care Staff Present: Maria Childers Jeff Lambaren Jennifer DeSanto Robert Taylor

*Advance notice given.

OPENING REMARKS by Temporary Chair Kenny Brown

Meeting called to order at 1:04 pm

PUBLIC COMMENT

- George Sharp, representative from DRAIL, stated the legislature will be having a full hearing next week to decide with budget measures to support and which to oppose. On February 20th, the IHSS Coalition will be holding a rally/press conference on the South steps of the Capital to oppose the proposed cuts to the IHSS program. He requested two volunteers from the IHSS Advisory Committee to attend the rally and share their personal stories of how the cuts would affect them. Transportation costs would be paid, and lunch will be provided to anyone who attends from the committee. The rally is scheduled for 1:30pm on February 20th. Please let DRAIL know by Feb. 15th if you are interested in attending.
- Connie Muller introduced her caregiver, Angel Franklin, who had attended the meeting. Angel is interested in joining the committee.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

January 11, 2008 minutes: Motion M/S/A to accept minutes, motion to accept made by Connie Muller, Joan Blackwell seconded, motion passed.

PUBLIC AUTHORITY

- Welcome given to Roberta Ferraro-Foster (Robbyn Foster) as the newest member of the Advisory Committee.
- The State has proposed an 18% cut in Domestic and Related services for all IHSS Recipients. It is unclear on how this would work in practice, but there is an estimate of a 6.6 hour cut per Recipient if this is implemented. The right to appeal has not been affected at this point, so the cut hours could potentially be reinstated if the Recipient chooses to appeal. In effect, this would result in increased costs for hearings, with a net result of hours being put back at original levels.



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AND CHILDREN, INC.



Jose Cisneros Robbyn Foster

Previously, cuts have been directed at the Providers of the program, but this year it is directed at Recipients. This would still have a ripple effect to providers due to cut in hours, and thus pay, as well as a decrease in the amount of insurance funds available.

- The SSI/SSP COLA was discussed at a recent legislative update meeting, and it is felt that these cuts will be accepted. The State COLA will not be available, but the Federal COLA remains unaffected.
- A proposal to change re-assessments from 12 to 18 months is expected to pass, but will probably not result in a large savings on a practical level. Waiver clients will not have an extended re-assessment, just PCSP and Residual IHSS cases.
- APS funding is expected to be cut by 10%. County personnel are working with the CEO's office to try and find alternate sources of funding to help this program.
- The proposed Health Care Reform bill has been shelved due to the major budget deficit. Good concepts were presented in the plan, but the ability for implementation was just not in place. CAPA opposed this plan due to poor implementation on a practical level. There are other health plan proposals still making their way through the Legislature, and they may be presented in the future.
- 4000 surveys were mailed to IHSS Recipients and Provider (2000 to each group) and we have received a good return from these. Enough surveys have been returned to have a statistically valid sample, so the surveys will be given to Strategic+Marketing to analyze the results. Jeff will report back when the results are received.
- Direct deposit information will be mailed to IHSS Providers on March 15th. Jeff contacted local credit unions, and they are interested in partnering to do presentations. The union is also interested in partnering with Link2Care and the Advisory committee for workshops relating to direct deposit. Providers must submit paperwork for each Recipient they work for, and there are time limits that must be met to qualify for the direct deposit option. The implementation of direct deposit is seen as a plus for the Providers due to increased convenience and security.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

• No updates are available due to the fiscal emergency. The legislature is not able to act on any other legislation until this issue is resolved, and a balanced budget is presented to the Governor.

ELDER JUSTICE COALITION

• At the retreat last month, Anne Danhoff requested the Committee consider sending a letter to the State supporting the Elder Justice Act. The Committee also discussed sending a letter to the State regarding the proposed cuts to the IHSS program. Connie Muller made a motion to draft two letters to the State regarding these issues. Marie Cochin seconded, motion passed.

ELDER JUSTICE COALITION

- Connie moved to elect Mary Burch as the Committee Chair, Robbyn Ferraro seconded, no opposition. Mary Burch was elected as the new Committee Chair.
- Robbyn Ferraro volunteered to serve as the Vice-Chair. Joan Blackwell moved to elect Robbyn as the Vice-Chair, Jose Cisneros seconded, no opposition. Robbyn Ferraro was elected as the new Vice Chair.

GENERAL UPDATE

• Connie Muller questioned when the IHSS Advisory Committee would meet again with the Adult Services Advisory Committee (ASAC). Maria Childers stated the Chair of the ASAC was going to speak with Egon Stammler and then propose meeting dates. Maria will keep the IHSSAC committee updated.

Meeting adjourned @ 1:42 PM, Jennifer DeSanto, Recorder