



COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY

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

Committee Members Present: Mary Burch Connie Muller Jose Cisneros
Joan Blackwell Robbyn Foster Marie Cochran
Valerie Mitchell Kenny Brown Jose Acosta

Committee Members Absent:

IHSS & Link2Care Staff Present: Jeff Lambaren Robert Taylor Maria Childers
Ana Enes Egon Stammler

Other Guests: Janie Whiteford

OPENING REMARKS by Chair Mary Burch

- Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm.
- Mary introduced Janie Whiteford to the group.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Tamir Luqman from United Domestic Workers of America had no new reports. They are just waiting for the budget to be passed.
- Tamir introduced Corrise, another UDWA worker who was attending her first meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- June 13, 2008 minutes: Motion to accept minutes, motion to accept made by Connie Muller, Kenny Brown seconded, motion passed.

PUBLIC AUTHORITY

- Jeff stated the Budget is still at a stalemate. September 5th is the record for the latest date for passage of the budget. The Governor ordered that non-essential state worker have wages reduced to the federal minimum wage of \$6.55 or be laid off. The State Controller has refused to comply with the Governors order.
- Jeff thanked Robbyn and Kenny for agreeing to participate in the Modesto Bee article that was going to be written about the budget being cut. Once Jeff explained to the Modesto Bee that the budget cuts weren't going to impact IHSS, they decided not to do an article.
- Jeff also announced that Link2Care is signed on to present at the Healthy Aging Summit. It's on Friday, October 10th. The event is focused on seniors. They will have events going on thru the



day, section on fall prevention, flu shots will be available, veteran services, and lunch is provided. It is being held at Modesto Center Plaza from 8:30am-4:00pm.

- Jeff asked if we should move the IHSSAC October meeting or skip it since it interferes with the Healthy Aging Summit. Robbyn suggested the meeting to be moved to Thursday, October 9th. Everyone agreed that would work.
- Link2Care is still working with the Senior Fall Prevention Coalition. Currently working on material to present to the Board of Supervisors on September 16th to help kick off Senior Fall Prevention.
- Connie Muller suggested that there be random drug testing with the Providers. She said she had a problem with one of her Providers and thinks it should be a requirement. Jeff mentioned we can't do random testing, but we would look at possibly doing it pre-employment. Also Jeff reminded everyone that the Recipient, as the employer, can fire a Provider at any time.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- AB2716, Paid Sick Leave – This would entitle all workers in California to be paid for sick leave if they work at least seven days in a year for an employer. This was rejected. It went to the senate suspense file.
- AB2136, Auto Insurance Bill – This bill prohibits insurance companies from charging IHSS Providers more on their auto insurance because they transport IHSS Recipients. This bill is currently in limbo since the Governor isn't signing any bills until the budget is passed.
- AB2038, Elder Abuse Registry – The phrase "dependent adult" was changed to "Adult with disabilities", and would move the primary responsibility to law enforcement for abuse reporting. This bill is also currently in limbo since the Governor isn't signing any bills until the budget is passed.

MEDIA PROJECT

- Jeff suggested that we hire someone to film and edit for this project. Said the Advisory Committee has enough money in their budget to be able to hire someone for the project. Discussion occurred and everyone agreed it would be the best way to go. Tamir suggested we get 3 bids to find the better price.
- Kenny mentioned that getting someone that has experience in this would help us get a better product.
- Jeff said we would want a 5-6 minute video. Asked everyone to think of a plan on what we want the video to look like and we would discuss it in next months meeting.

COMMITTEE BUDGET UPDATE

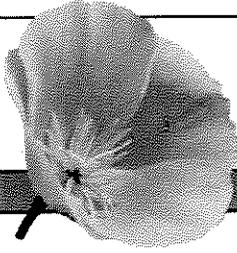
- Jeff passed out a flyer with last year's budget. There was \$17,500 unspent. Mentioned this was more than enough money to join CICA and be involved in more projects.

GUEST SPEAKER, JANIE WHITEFORD

- Janie Whiteford, President of CICA, and Chair of Advisory Committee in Santa Clara. Janie spoke about how CICA began as collaboration between people who are members of IHSS Advisory Committees or Governing Boards.
- CICA offers an annual conference, which is November 7-9 in San Jose. CICA members are able to attend at a cheaper rate than a non-member.
- A monthly conference call occurs every 3rd Wednesday of the month, for all Advisory Committee members. To participate in the conference call you need to call 800-704-9804 and enter the participant code, 28717432. During the conference calls they talk about everything that affects IHSS, County happenings, different problems people are dealing with and information to share. It's a great way to network.

- Janie spoke about how to become a member. Memberships are open to any Advisory Committee and it costs \$2,000. The cost covers the conference calls, outreach, marketing, hired administrative help and the newsletter.
- CICA has a website, www.CICAIHSS.ORG that lists their bylaws, board member information, and minutes from the conference calls. They are looking to update the site with a members only area soon.

Meeting adjourned @ 2:24 PM,
Ana Enes, Recorder



The Consumer Voice

the newsletter of CICA, the California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance

A Message from the CICA President



Dear Fellow IHSS Advisory Committee and Governing Board Members:

Happy belated New Year to all and what a busy IHSS New Year it has turned out to be!

This CICA newsletter is primarily focused on the proposed California State budget and its potential effect on IHSS services.

As Advisory Committee and Governing Board members it is very important that you educate yourselves on these proposed IHSS cuts, the effect they will have on IHSS services for consumers and providers, and how you can make a real difference.

Read this issue to learn more about how you can help raise awareness about the vital role of IHSS in our communities. CICA members and supporters have generously contributed articles that I am sure you will find helpful in your work as Advisory Committee and Governing Board members.

Our monthly statewide CICA conference calls are also a great source of information about these potential IHSS cuts. We also discuss other issues affecting IHSS in the state such as Quality Assurance, Advisory Committee/Governing Board development, IHSS Training, and other important concerns. Advisory Committee members also share what is going on in their local areas that might be useful and effective in your county. We have changed our conference call days to the third Wednesday of every month at 10AM. Please join our CICA email list to receive notice about these calls by contacting Heidi Cartan at hcartan@well.com

For up-to-the-minute information on IHSS, the budget process and cuts, and other services affecting seniors and people with disabilities I strongly recommend that you visit the CDCAN website at www.cdcan.us and get on Marty Omoto's list serve today. Remember, as an Advisory Committee member you are only as effective as your knowledge and information about IHSS grows.

In the next several months, CICA will be sponsoring one day educational trainings in each of our regions about the proposed

IHSS budget cuts. Please watch for these dates and training locations. On behalf of the CICA Executive Committee I encourage all Advisory Committee and Governing Board members to participate.

I am inviting you all to become active CICA participants today!

Janie Whiteford

This issue of the CICA newsletter is dedicated to our friend and fellow advocate, Bob Roberts. As many of you know, Bob passed away recently and this loss is felt widely, including among the CICA leadership, where Bob volunteered as treasurer on our Executive Committee. Bob worked hard to develop CICA and he believed strongly in CICA's mission. He helped to shape our earliest efforts. Bob's vision for CICA's future as an effective, useful collaboration between all Advisory/Governing Board members across California guides us onward.

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**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

Mark Your Calendar!

**2008 COORDINATED
LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE**

"No Time Like the
Present: Strengthening
Alliances"

a joint aging and
disability conference

April 15-17; Wyndham Hotel,
San Jose, CA
www.c4a.info

**RESPECT-ABILITY
Conference 2009**

Thinking Outside the Box:
Identifying and Sharing
Effective Strategies and Best
Practice Models to Achieve the
Disability Rights Agenda.
March 7 & 8, LAX Marriott,
Los Angeles
www.respectabilitycoalition.org

Legislative Budget Meetings
and other legislative sub-
committee meetings dealing
with IHSS issues in CA.
For up to the minute
information visit
www.cdcan.us and sign-up for
Marty Omoto's very
informative email notices.

**DISABILITY CAPITOL
ACTION DAY**

May 15, 2008
Sacramento, CA
Capitol Building
Disabilities Action Coalition
www.cfilc.org

Greetings to CICA Membership,

My name is Petrita Powers. I'm from the Sacramento County Advisory Committee and I am honored to have been appointed chairperson to the CICA newsletter "The Consumer Voice." I look forward to working with you promoting our cause, which is addressing senior and disability awareness, and representing the statewide IHSS Advisory Committees and Governing Boards of California.

Working to ensure our right to make choices and participate fully in all aspects of society.

Beginning this year we have been faced with many challenges due to the proposed state budget cuts of 18% in IHSS in hours for domestic/ related services and cost of living cuts. I would like to invite and encourage the CICA membership to get involved in sharing your stories by writing letters of testimony. Stories concerning hardships that will harm your well being and quality of life if these proposed cuts become a reality need to be told.

I close with a challenge to you, the CICA membership. A challenge to let us know what you are doing in your counties and regions to organize, educate, inform, and stand up to these threats and make a difference. It is only with your participation that our membership can send a loud message to our legislative leaders and help them hear our voice!

Respectfully,

Petrita Powers, CICA Newsletter Chair

IHSS in Jeopardy

The news is bad for the state budget...again. The projected state budget deficit is \$14 billion and climbing. In response, Governor Schwarzenegger has proclaimed that we are facing a budget crisis and signed an emergency proclamation to force the legislature to act on the budget. The Governor is asking the legislature to reduce funding for most state departments and programs by 10 percent with so-called "across-the-board" cuts.



The IHSS program was not spared by the Governor. He is proposing to permanently cut the IHSS program by reducing domestic and related services by 18% percent effective on July 1, 2008. "Domestic and related services"

is the term used by bureaucrats to describe essential IHSS services which include meal preparation, meal cleanup, house cleaning, laundry, shopping and errands. The 18% cuts are so pervasive they would affect 96% of IHSS consumers and will have

significant negative impacts for consumers' health and safety.

The underlying premise from the Administration is that IHSS "family providers" will continue

to provide these services for no pay.

"Family providers" includes relatives who do not live with the consumer, who have no obligation to work for free, and who are doing this work instead of other work which might pay more. This cut will result in a loss of workers available, a higher rate of

worker turnover, a loss of services, and very likely a reduction in the quality of care. Many providers in the IHSS program already live in poverty and many are eligible for food stamps, and few have access now to health insurance.

The proposed cut is a double-hit on IHSS consumers who have already had their hours reduced to take into account shared living arrangements. When the consumer lives with a roommate or attendant, the assessment of need for domestic and related services is prorated and reduces the number of hours approved for domestic and related services.

The proposed IHSS cuts also contradict the recent state-funded IHSS Quality Assurance program and its Hourly Task Guidelines. Many consumers will fall below the minimum number of hours needed to remain safely in their homes. Those guidelines, along with new

training of social workers, was designed to accurately and consistently assess service needs and assign appropriate hours of IHSS service. This proposed 18% cut to domestic and related services completely undermines the entire concept of conducting individual assessments to provide sufficient hours to “ensure the health, safety, and independence of the recipient”.

The Administration indicates that they intend to implement this reduction statewide for all consumers with domestic and related services on July 1, 2008 if the statutory changes are made by the legislature. The 18% cut would then be made automatically by the Case Management Information & Payrolling System (CMIPS). IHSS assessments will continue on an individualized basis by county social workers.

Solving the budget gap in California requires a balanced solution. This is a

large state, with the largest population in the United States, and an economy that, if it were a country's, would be the sixth or seventh largest in the world. The budget problem can't be solved by cuts alone, because state program reductions of such a magnitude hurt the people most who can least afford them. We need a fair balancing of this deficit crisis with a combination approach that includes some revenue raising as well as targeted program cuts to non-essential services (as opposed to across the board cuts). The budget situation is not a spending crisis; it's a revenue crisis. We do not believe that the health and welfare of seniors and people with disabilities, as well as the providers who provide essential home care services, should be compromised in order to balance the budget.

*Karen KeeStar
United Domestic Workers Consultant*

Town Hall Meetings: What Consumers Can Do

The front page headline of the Oakland Tribune was “Care cuts may hit home hard.” The date was April 8, 2004. The two Tribune photos were of mothers with their children, each with severe disabilities, in the audience of a Town Hall meeting held in downtown Oakland to inform the community of the recently elected Governor's proposal to cut IHSS worker wages and benefits and to eliminate State funding for public authorities.

Close to 450 IHSS consumers and workers, their family members, and community advocates attended that town hall meeting sponsored by ADAPT and

the Public Authority for IHSS in Alameda County. They heard details about the proposed cuts and heard from people whose lives would be affected.

Senator Don Perata, other State legislators and their staff, and members of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors spoke in opposition to the proposed cuts. Dozens of those who attended were able to have their stories recorded in a DVD later sent to the Governor and State legislators. Radio, newspaper, and television crews conducted interviews that made the evening news.

Statewide advocacy by consumers, labor and groups such as CAPA and

CICA, which included town hall meetings in other counties, rallies, visits and letters to legislators, and testimony at State budget hearings combined to influence the State legislature to reject the proposed cuts.



*Herb Meyer speaking with Don Perata (L),
Fabian Nunez (Center)*

Can individuals or small organizations use town hall meetings to educate, advocate, and influence public policy or legislation? You bet!

Although the town hall meeting in Oakland took a lot of work and cost several thousand dollars to send out a mailing, hire a huge room at a convention center, rent a sound system, provide interpreters, arrange speakers, etc., town hall meetings can be used on a smaller scale to inform the community

and to advocate. Public Authority Advisory Board members had important roles in this event, helping to plan the event, speaking to the audience, being interviewed by the media, and informing and urging their friends and neighbors to attend.

One note of caution: organizations receiving public funds are prohibited from using their resources to influence the public to support or oppose legislation, public policy, candidates or ballot measures. ADAPT, the co-

sponsor of the town hall meeting, was able to urge the public to oppose the cuts.

Examples of written materials (such as a press release, a mailer to the community, Powerpoint presentation) and a town hall checklist are available. For a copy, please visit the CICA website at www.cicaihss.org

*Charles Calavan, Executive Director,
Alameda County Public Authority*

The Telethon Mentality

Faced with the prospect of another year battling with an insensitive administration, many things need to be considered to improve our effectiveness. One of the most important things we can do as consumer advocates is change the public perception of the disability community.

The key principle behind the public authority advisory committees is for consumers to have an active, informed voice in the design and implementation of services that affect us daily. We must have a similar sense of empowerment when we are represented in the media.

The reality is that the disability community is as diverse as any of the groups that comprise our society.

Unfortunately, our history has been one of being too-often portrayed in terms of being helpless and somewhat pathetic. I have described this as "the telethon mentality". Using that description no doubt results from me having muscular

dystrophy, and watching Jerry Lewis year after year play on the public's sympathy to raise money. Losing our dignity should never be a requirement to receive the funding needed to provide services that are necessary for our survival.

We must continue to build upon our community's greatest victories of the last 35 years--the independent living movement, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Supreme Court's 1999 Olmstead Decision. We must actively work with representatives of print and electronic media to educate them on the diversity of the disability community and the depth of the issues which affect us.

Most importantly, we must take charge of our own destinies by utilizing the internet to develop our own message and represent ourselves in a manner which will lead to a better understanding of our population. By better informing the

public of the cost effectiveness and value of IHSS, we can increase their participation and support in our attempts to strengthen the program.

As CICA reformats its web site, I hope to see a greater opportunity for IHSS consumers to have a forum (including blogs) in which we can express our opinions and strengthen our message.

As we move forward in the 21st century, we need to move away from our community's history of institutionalization and being portrayed as "patients". The greater public needs to finally understand that limits of our physical functioning should never result in limits of our capabilities to be dignified, productive members of society.

*John Wilkins, Co-chair of the Quality
Homecare Coalition*

"There are only four kinds of people in the world: those who have been caregivers; those who are currently caregivers; those who will be caregivers; those who will need caregivers." Rosalynn Carter

**CICA
MISSION
STATEMENT**

California's seniors and persons living with disabilities have a right to lead empowered, independent lives.

The California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA) is a statewide collaboration of IHSS Public Authority Advisory Committee and Governing Board members.

CICA provides education, information and networking opportunities for members to fulfill their mandate to advise on improvements to the IHSS program.

CICA also assists in developing Advisory Committees and Governing Boards to their highest potential.

Local Update - Napa County

On Tuesday January 08, 2008 at 9:00 A.M. the Napa County Board of Supervisors had the following item on its agenda:

“Director of Health and Human Services requests adoption of a resolution approving the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) rate package increasing IHSS provider wages from \$10.50 per hour to \$11.50 per hour and retaining a provision for 60 cents per hour in health benefits.”

Doug Weir, member of the IHSS Public Authority Advisory Board, received a call from a SEIU representative alerting him to this agenda item and letting him know that it seemed the Board was going to table the item for now. Doug, concerned about this possibility, went to the Board's meeting and spoke on behalf of the recipients in Napa, asking the Board of Supervisors to approve

the wage increase. Doug explained that the providers work very hard, and often don't get paid for all they do, and that they aren't even paid anything for the use of their cars when helping recipients go shopping or to doctor appointments.

The Supervisors called for a vote on the item and it was approved by all 5 Supervisors! Now let's hope the state will do its part and pay its share!

Tips from Doug:

To prepare yourself to make a comment or presentation one day to your Governing Board/Board of Supervisors' meeting, go to a meeting first as an audience member. Watch and see how everything works.

Then, when you go to discuss your item you're not as nervous!

Doug Weir, Advisory Committee Member, Napa County

CICA Acting Executive Committee Roster

Janie Whiteford
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CICA's Mission

California's seniors and persons living with disabilities have a right to lead empowered, independent lives. The California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA) is a statewide collaboration of IHSS Public Authority Advisory Committee and Governing Board members. CICA provides education, information and networking opportunities for members to fulfill their mandate to advise on improvements to the IHSS program. CICA also assists in developing Advisory Committees and Governing Boards to their highest potential.

"I believe the California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance (CICA), the organization formed to keep Public Authority Advisory Boards in the different counties of California informed about what is happening on the state level is necessary. This organization makes it easier for Advisory Board members to find out what is happening legislatively in California and when and how to act on that information..." - JoAnn Disbrow, Member IHSS Advisory Board, Santa Clara County

The California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance (CICA) began as an outgrowth of collaboration between individuals throughout California who serve their communities as members of IHSS Advisory Committees or Governing Boards.

IHSS Advisory Committees are mandated under Assembly Bill 1682, the legislation that founded IHSS Public Authorities. Starting with the first IHSS Advisory Committee conference held in Santa Clara County in 2002, Advisory Committee members statewide have been invited to gather annually to share information, learn more about the IHSS program, and improve in their roles as Advisory Committee members. In addition to the annual conference, CICA offers an informational website, regional trainings, monthly networking meetings, and a quarterly newsletter to IHSS Advisory Committee and Governing Board members throughout the state.

CICA Executive Committee

Janie Whiteford - President Santa Clara County Advisory Board

Nancy Seyden - Executive Vice-President Yolo County IHSS Advisory Committee

Shirley Adams and Tiffany Adams - Vice President, Southern Region Orange County IHSS Advisory Committee

Cynthia Calderon - Vice President, Northern Region Humboldt County IHSS Advisory Committee

Janet Heinitz-Canterbury, M.S.W. - Secretary Personal Assistance Services Council of Los Angeles County

Herb Meyer - Vice President, Central Region Marin County IHSS Governing Board

Chris Otero - Treasurer Personal Assistance Services Council of Los Angeles County

John Stephenson - Vice President Southern Region San Diego IHSS Advisory

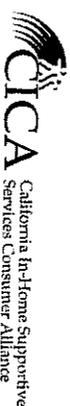
We invite you to join CICA's monthly networking meeting via conference call. Email info@cica-ihss.org for information or call (408) 356-6034

"CICA has provided me with a wealth of information that I have been able to share with the Yolo County IHSS Advisory Committee. I am aware of Statewide issues because of CICA. I am a better Chair of the Advisory Committee as a result of my participation with CICA. We have been able to draw on the amazing experiences and expertise of other participants throughout the state. CICA is a very exciting organization with great potential, and I look forward to being part of each effort. CICA offers us a chance to get involved and to have a voice in the issues before us. I hope you all add your voice to the discussion."

Nancy Seyden, Chair Yolo County IHSS Advisory

Current CICA Members

- Alameda County Advisory Committee
- Contra Costa County Advisory Committee
- Lake County Advisory Committee
- Personal Assistance Services Council of Los Angeles County
- Marin County IHSS Governing Board
- Mariposa County IHSS Advisory Committee
- Mendocino County IHSS Advisory Committee
- Nevada County IHSS Governing Board
- Placer County IHSS Advisory Committee
- Riverside County IHSS Advisory Committee
- Sacramento County IHSS Advisory Committee
- San Francisco County IHSS Governing Board
- Santa Clara County IHSS Advisory Committee
- Tulare County IHSS Advisory Committee



CICA

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**Empowering California's
IHSS Advisory Committees and
Governing Board Members through
Education and Networking**

