

IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

July 2013



Being Selfish

by Linda White IHSSAC Chair

I volunteered to be a member of the IHSS Advisory Committee about 10 years ago. The reason I did was at first selfish. I wanted to get a decent wage and benefits for myself and other Home Health workers like me. I take care of my Husband.

I am still on the Committee today because I found out that there was a lot more I could do to help recipients and providers by being a voice for them. It isn't a high paying position (we don't get paid), it isn't a high profile position either, but the fact that I can try to make a difference, even a little one has brought me a great deal of satisfaction.

I would hope that if you want to do something to help and you don't think you can, well I'm telling you, you can. Come join us, we are providers and recipients of IHSS, we swap ideas, we are striving to make a difference. So if you only want to help yourself, great, you may find the same reward I did.

Visit the IHSSAC Website at:
www.stancounty.com/IHSSAC

8% Reduction

On March 19, 2013, the Department of Social Services (CDSS) Director Will Lightbourne and California Department of Health Care Services Director, Toby Douglas, have announced an agreement with In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) beneficiaries and labor organizations to resolve several class action lawsuits involving the IHSS Program.

The agreement resolves the dispute between the State and plaintiffs in the Oster v. Lightbourne and Dominguez v. Schwarzenegger lawsuits. The agreement would end multiple legal challenges to the IHSS program changes enacted in 2009 and subsequent years.

As part of the settlement, the IHSS program, commencing July 1, 2013, would continue to incur a 3.6 percent reduction of services with an additional 4.4 percent reduction, for a total of 8 percent.

The 8% reduction is in accordance with the mandates of Senate Bill (SB) 67 and applies to all IHSS recipients. In June, you received a Notice of Action (NOA) informing you of the reduction. The NOA showed the total hours authorized before and after the 8% reduction.

Recipients do not have an appeal right related to the 8% reduction but retain the right to request a reassessment if their condition changes.

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.

Important Numbers

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

Reminders for Recipients

- Review the hours and authorized tasks with your provider
- Review and sign your providers time sheet after it is complete
- Report any changes in your condition to your social worker right away

Reminders for Providers

- Call your recipient if you will be late
- Fill out your time card before you give it to your recipient for signature
- Report any changes in your address right away

Provider Alert

The law requires that the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) provide workers' compensation coverage to IHSS Providers.

On July 1, 2013 the York Risk Services Group, Inc. (York) will begin administering worker's compensation benefits and services for the IHSS Program.

If you have been injured on the job and receive a letter from York respond right away or your claim may be denied or terminated.

Quality Assurance

On March 21, 2013, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) released the Uniform Statewide Protocols for Program Integrity Activities in the IHSS Program. The guidelines are designed to improve the quality and consistency in the IHSS program. The guidelines have three main components:

- Unannounced Home Visits to the Recipient to ensure quality of service, well-being and discuss any concerns
- Targeted Mailings to the Providers to convey program integrity concerns and inform of program rules and requirements
- Statewide Coordination and Communication to develop a standard process for fraud referrals