

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES/PUBLIC AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 10, 2023, 12:45 PM

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I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 12:47 PM.			
A. Attendance			
Members		Excused Members	Guests
Nadine Branch Yolanda Ivy Marissa "Rissa" Chavez Erica McClure	Angela Vittucci Antonio Wilson Rusty Krumm Charles Kirtley	Ethel Larkins	Nicanora Montenegro Don Howard Jacqueline Lang Amelia Peterson Casey Myers
Alternates	AIS/IHSS Staff	IHSS Public Authority	
	Julie Lara Charity Lerma Fernando Manriquez Alejandra Quinonez	Thomas H. Johnson Ana Molina Manny Martinez-Ortega	Antonio Wilson Emily Kilcrease Sandra Castillo
Item	Outcome/Discussion		Action Items
II. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM: Done.			
III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Done.			
IV. INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.			
V. TELECONFERENCE RULE: Rissa read the teleconference rule. The committee voted on the teleconference rule. Motion carried.			
VI. MEETING CODE OF CONDUCT REVIEW: Angela reviewed the IHSS/PA Advisory Committee Meeting Code of Conduct. Article 3, Code of Conduct.			
IX. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Nadine asked for approval of the agenda. Yolanda motioned to approve the agenda. Rusty seconded it. Motion carried.			
VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Nadine asked for approval of the minutes. Nadine noted two corrections on the minutes. Ethel was excused from the last meeting. Thomas also requested a correction to his report. The provider wage should have been reported at \$16.00 instead of \$16.50. Angela motioned to approve the minutes. Erica seconded it. Motion carried.			
IX. CHAIR REPORT: Nadine reported that she attended the Awareness Prevents Fraud: Fraud Prevention Conference and Resource Fair at the George Stevens center. Nadine represented the committee at the event, and she was accompanied by Manny Martinez-Ortega from Public Authority.			

X. BOARD LETTERS AND MEMO (discussion and possible action):

Thomas reported that a tentative agreement with UDW was signed on January 26th. A Board Letter was approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 7th. The Board Letter is related to an agreement for a pay increase for IHSS Providers, from \$16.00 to \$17.00. The agreement will go into effect once it is voted on and ratified by UDW members. The votes will be counted, and the agreement is scheduled to be ratified by UDW on February 22nd. The Board Letter allows for an ongoing increase, that would entail a total of \$17.00 for the rest of this year, \$18.00 starting January 1st, 2024. On January 1st, 2025, there is a potential for a \$19.00 per hour wage, however, that would require State legislation. In addition to the pay increase, there was also a .03 cent per paid hour contribution towards a life insurance plan and \$50,000 for Personal Protective Equipment which will be distributed by UDW. In addition, there is also \$40,000 for transportation which may include bus and trolley passes. Nadine asked if members must approve the new agreement. Emily confirmed that on February 22nd, UDW members will vote by mail or in-person. Once the members have voted in favor of the contract, approval of the new pay rate will be sent to the State for approval. Once the State has approved the new rate, the changes are projected to take place on May 1st.

XI. PRESENTATIONS (discussion and possible action): Medicare Medi-Cal Plans and the Cal MediConnect Transition- by: Jacqueline Lang:

Jacqueline Lang explained CalAIM(California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal) and the impact on dual eligible beneficiaries. CalAIM is a multi-year initiative by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to improve the quality of life and health outcomes for Californians by implementing a broad delivery system, program, and payment reform across Medi-Cal. CalAIM's three goals are: to identify and manage comprehensive needs, improve quality outcomes, and make Medi-Cal a more consistent and seamless system for enrollees to navigate. Jacqueline explained that they hope to accomplish these goals by reducing the complexity and building flexibility into the program. Jacqueline defined Dual Eligible Beneficiaries as individuals who are eligible for Medicare and Medi-Cal, they are often referred to as Duals or Medi-Medis. Duals are more likely to report being in poor health. In California, almost a quarter (22.4%) of Medicare beneficiaries were dually eligible for Medicare and Medi-Cal. Jacqueline explained that streamlined access to services is critical, especially for beneficiaries with high-rates of chronic conditions. However, Medicare and Medi-Cal operate separately, with different funding streams. Cal MediConnect was a health plan option for duals that combined Medi-Cal and Medicare benefits, giving an additional layer of care coordination. Cal MediConnect was a demonstration project that was launched by the State as a coordinated care initiative. The demo ended; thus, the Cal MediConnect plans were automatically transitioned on January 1, 2023, to Medicare Medi-Cal Plan (MMP or Medi-Medi Plan). MMP is operated by the same parent company as the Cal MediConnect plan. There will be no gaps in coverage, provider networks are expected to be substantially similar, and there will be continuity of care provisions. MMPs combine Medicare and Medi-Cal benefits into one plan. They are available in seven counties: San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Mateo, and Santa Clara. At this time, 112,232 out of 112,661 (99%) Cal MediConnect beneficiaries were successfully transitioned. The remaining 429 (0.38%) beneficiaries were not transitioned due to valid plan exclusion reasons. Jacqueline explained that the program name used by DHCS is "Medicare Medi-Cal Plans", however, health plans may use their own marketing name. This may be the case with plan-specific member materials. MMPs are described as a single plan in beneficiary-facing materials. Beneficiaries will receive one card, one welcome packet, and one number to call for member services. MMP beneficiaries receive their Medicare benefits through a Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (D-SNP) and their Medi-Cal benefits through a Medi-Cal managed care plan. Both plans are operated by the same parent organization which allows for better care coordination and integration. MMPs provide a robust set of benefits that include both Medicare and Medi-Cal benefits. If the beneficiary provider is not available within the plan, there

will be a continuity plan period, in which the beneficiary can continue to see their provider for up to 12 months. Jacqueline explained that there are no differences in benefits between the Medicare Medi Cal Plans & Cal MediConnect Plans. Enrollment is optional.

XII. REPORTS

A. AIS Council	Nadine reported that the next AIS Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 13 th .	
B. Membership Committee	Julie reported that the committee only has one vacancy, the community agency position. One person has applied for that position and a vote will be held during today’s meeting. If the vote passes, there will be a full committee roster.	
C. IHSS	Charity shared more information regarding the EVV Geolocation implementation. When EVV was originally implemented it was a federal requirement that the geolocation portion be a part of the EVV process. They initially held off on the geolocation portion, however, it will go live on July 1 st . Charity confirmed that this will not affect the timesheet method for consumers. Non-live-in providers will be required to check in and check out, in real-time, using the EVV website, the TTS system from a landline, or through a mobile app. There will be letters going out to inform providers of the new process. Providers will have the ability to edit their entries in the ETS system before submitting their timesheets. Charity reported that they had a successful hiring haul for vacant staff positions. She introduced two social work supervisors, Alejandra Quinonez, and Fernando Manriquez.	
D. UDW	Rob Bonta, California Attorney General, visited UDW Offices. He observed UDW members as they phone banked to maximize voter participation in the upcoming election to ratify the new tentative labor agreement with the Public Authority. The ballot count will be on February 22 nd . Members have been encouraged to volunteer to help with the count. On February 23 rd , they will have their District 1 membership meeting at the California Center of the Arts in Escondido. In an effort to grow membership, they are conducting home visits for non-members and encouraging existing members to renew their memberships.	
E. CICA	Nadine reported that CICA had a BUPS (Back-Up Provider System) training on February 1 st . Nadine shared information regarding texting technology to reach out to providers. Thomas confirmed the texting feature for BUPS is available in San Diego County. Nadine also reported on CICA’s initiative to raise the advisory committees’ budgets. She shared that some of the findings have been that there are committees that are not currently spending their lower budgets. Therefore, she believes a budget increase will be unlikely.	
F. Public Authority	Thomas reports that the new agreement has been the primary focus. The Board Letter process was expedited to ensure that the increase for providers goes into effect as soon as possible. Thomas reported that Manny’s position has evolved into a community engagement position. Thomas explained that he is available to accompany the committee, as a Public Authority representative, to community events. Manny can help provide materials and answer questions. Thomas shared that the Public Authority is in the process of creating the agency’s FY 23/24	

budget. Once the budget is completed and approved, Thomas will present information to the advisory committee. Thomas explained that the budget is not as robust as it has been in the past, thus limiting the possibility of staffing increases. As the program continues to grow, the Public Authority is looking at technology systems they can integrate to streamline processes. The timesheet training by the Public Authority staff to IHSS providers has had very positive results. There are currently two Public Authority team members who are assisting providers with timesheets. Thomas shared he has communicated with the State, through the California Association of Public Authority (CAPA), regarding the complexity of the timesheet process. CAPA has a monthly meeting with the State where the concerns have been expressed.

Financial Report: Thomas reviewed the financial report. Ana listed the expenditures that have been deducted from the budget. Thomas informed the committee that there are different ways the committee can spend their remaining balance. Nadine requested a line item on the report specifically for event registration fees.

Pilot to Increase Funding (CICA): Thomas reported that CICA has requested information on how previous funds have been spent in the past to support their request to increase the Advisory Committee budget to \$53,000s. That information has been shared with CICA. Thomas reminded the committee that the increased budget is an initiative that can be pursued by the committee as a body or individually. However, Thomas as a representative of the Public Authority must remain neutral, as is the case for the County. Thomas did express that if the committee needs any information provided, the Public Authority can assist.

Nadine shared how the funds have been utilized in the past. A large part of the funds went to travel for committee members to various conferences.

XII. OLD BUSINESS (discussion and possible action):

A. Goals Review:

1. Quarterly Open Table Talks: Thomas suggested inviting members of the committee to a future meeting with the Southern Caregivers Resource Center. Erica suggested that Rissa should attend on behalf of the committee.
2. Posting Presentations and Meeting Materials to the Website: Ana shared that, per the committees' request, presentation materials have been posted to the IHSS Public Authority Advisory Committee website, under the "Agenda" link. Erica stated that she will also share information on the IHSS Facebook Group.
3. New Goals for FY 2023-2024: Nadine asked the committee for their input regarding goals for the next fiscal year. The goals for the fiscal year 2022-2023 were reviewed and the committee agreed to keep the same goals for the following year. Nadine asked the committee for suggestions on advocacy training. Rissa suggested Access to Independence and San Diego People First. Erica suggested inviting someone from Disability Rights. Thomas suggested reaching out to CICA for advocacy resources to increase consumer participation.

B. Art Design for Committee Tablecloth: Thomas agreed to have Ana research some options in terms of finding a vendor for the design on the tablecloth. The findings will be presented at the next committee meeting.

C. Job Board for IHSS Public Authority Providers: Rusty had an idea for a provider job board that includes their qualifications. He explained that the current list from the Registry that is being provided does not display sufficient information. He suggested categorizing caregivers based on their abilities. Thomas explained how the lists are generated and that providers have different levels, such as Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. The levels are based on the provider's training and experience (including how many consumers they have worked with in the past). When the list is generated the Platinum providers are sent out first, followed in order by Gold, Silver, and then Bronze. Thomas explains that at one point, training that providers completed were added to that list. However, there were numerous complaints that the lists were too long and contained too much information. Thomas notes that Rusty provided a valid potential solution in suggesting that the lists be hosted online, where consumers can select how much information is displayed. Thomas states that although the software technology is not available to the Public Authority, there is a push to eventually offer features similar to that in the future. Thomas explained that a job board currently exists on the Public Authority website. Thomas gave a walk-through of the website to share what is currently offered including how providers can potentially find work and how consumers can potentially find caregivers

XIII. NEW BUSINESS (discussion and possible action):

- A. **Advocating for Higher Wages for Providers:** The item was tabled due to a pending tentative agreement between the Public Authority and UDW that includes a wage increase.
- B. **In-Person Meetings:** Thomas shared that the State of Emergency due to COVID-19 was extended for an additional ninety days by the Federal Government. This interpretation means that in-person meetings will not need to resume until May 2023.
- C. **Membership Vote – Nicanora Montenegro.** Erica shared information about her interview with Nicanora. Yolanda motioned to allow Nicanora to join the committee. Rissa seconded it.
Motion carried.
- D. **Purchase Items for Outreach Events:** Item tabled.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT: A member of the public expressed that he appreciated that closed captioning was turned on.

XV. MEMBER COMMENT: Yolanda inquired about support groups that have individuals with a deeper and personal understanding of physical and mental challenges who advocate based on personal experience. Rissa suggested looking into college programs. They often have groups of individuals who speak from a self-advocacy perspective. Rusty recommended the Facebook groups as a way for Yolanda to connect with others. Yolanda inquired on whether the end of the State of Emergency will affect Calfresh benefits. Amelia answered and stated the emergency Calfresh allotment will be ending in March 2023.

XVI. NEXT MEETING AGENDA: To be determined.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT: Nadine adjourned the meeting at 2:58 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ana Molina.