

**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
June 17, 2009  
Minutes**

**Attendees:** Koleen Biegacki, Francisco Godoy, Melissa Kinley, Antoinette Lopez-Coles, Kristen Lyall, Stormaliza Powmacwizalord, Michele Stuart and Cordia Wade

**Absent:** DeAnga Hills (Excused)

**Staff & Guests:** Emma Ebeling (PA), Martha Garcia (Ms. Lopez-Coles' Caregiver), Pat Leichty (PA), Bernadette Lynch (PA), Donna Lyall (Ms. Lyall's Caregiver), Marcella Rojas (Interpreter), Kerilynn Rugg (Interpreter), and Rick Simonson (PA)

**I. Call to Order:**

Chair Lyall called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM. A quorum was present.

**II. Introductions:**

All Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

**III. Consent Calendar:**

A. Agenda – The June 17, 2009 Agenda was reviewed. A motion was made to accept the Agenda as presented. (Wade/Godoy) The motion passed.

B. Minutes – The May 20, 2009 Minutes were reviewed and a motion was made to accept the Minutes as presented. (Wade/Lopez-Coles) The motion passed.

C. Chair's Report and Correspondence – Ms. Lyall advised the Committee that member Bari Schlesinger resigned. With her resignation, another member will be needed for the Task Force. Ms. Lyall and Ms. Stuart are on the Task Force but a backup is needed.

Ms. Lyall thanked the Public Authority for all the assistance they have provided her and the Committee in helping prepare them for the hearings. She also thanked Melissa Kinley for being her voice at the Board of Supervisor's Grand Jury Report hearing on June 16, 2009. She said Melissa did a great job.

#### **IV. Reports:**

- A. DHHS Senior and Adult Services – Ms. Bettis and Mr. Klopp were unable to attend today's meeting.
- B. SEIU-UHW – Erica Bland. No one from the Union was present at the meeting.
- C. Public Authority – Bernadette Lynch. Ms. Lynch advised the Advisory Committee that Ann Edwards-Buckley, the Director of Health and Human Services, said that three units, consisting of approximately 24 people, will be reassigned to IHSS. At this time, there are approximately 4,000 uncovered cases and the proposed additional cuts would only increase that number. Adoptions and Foster Care will lose personnel to allow for the three additional IHSS units to be funded. Administrative staff is also being cut. Money is coming out of the provider payment account for the new fraud team at the DA's office.

#### **V. Board of Supervisors' Happenings:**

- A. Budget Hearings Report – Ms. Lynch talked about the budget hearings she attended on June 11, 2009 regarding the \$1 million that has been budgeted to the District Attorney's office to create a new program to investigate fraud. These responsibilities are currently being overseen by the IHSS Fraud Unit.

A State Joint Conference budget committee rejected the proposal for wages to be reduced to \$8.00 an hour.

- B. Grand Jury Report on IHSS Fraud Follow-Up – There was discussion about the June 16, 2009 IHSS report back and their frustration that the Board of Supervisors is not listening to what is being recommended by the IHSS Advisory Committee. The Committee representatives made a presentation and a letter went to all members of the Board of

Supervisors. The Committee advised that since there is much unknown about how IHSS will change with the numerous proposals at the State, a request was made to the BOS to at the very least postpone implementation of the Fraud Team until final budget.

Ms. Lynch thanked Ms. Lyall, Ms. Powmacwizalord, Ms. Kinley and Ms. Wade for speaking at the BOS as they took reports on the Grand Jury on June 16 and sharing their stories. Ms. Kinley and Ms. Lyall talked about the necessity of IHSS for recipients. Ms. Powmacwizalord gave a presentation at the budget hearings also. The members talked about the Sacramento Bee not reporting anything that the Committee members talked about, but only wrote about what the Board of Supervisors discussed. It was decided that a letter should be written to the Editor and the Bee reporter regarding the reporting of the hearings and that it was not fairly reported. It was also discussed that the members talk with the AAs and the Chief of Staffs to let them know the BOS are not listening to the Advisory Committee's advice.

Ms. Lynch said one of the state budget proposals is that clients with a functional index level of 2 or below would be ineligible to receive IHSS benefits. If a client has a functional index level of 4 or under, their hours may be reduced in certain tasks. A client who receives more than 120 hours, who has paramedic services, or needs protected supervision will not be affected. At this time, this is just a proposal.

The State Budget Conference Committee has proposed a reduction in the Public Authority's budget by 20%. The PA has been affected locally with the County budget shortfall. As a result, there will be over 1,000 payoffs in the County. The Public Authority is eliminating an ASO II and a Human Service Specialist position. Five other positions are being bumped or face lay off.

Ms. Lynch advised the Committee members that there will be a new member effective July 15, 2009. Her name is Carolyn Rose.

## **VI. ADDUS Proposal:**

- A. A letter sent to Jim Hunt and Ann Edwards-Buckley from ADDUS HealthCare was distributed.

Review and Develop IHSSAC Response – A response from the Advisory Committee was discussed regarding Agency Mode of Care (proposed by ADDUS) vs. individual providers. ADDUS met with the County Executive and a Board of Supervisor member. The letter and a subsequent meeting with DHHS staff explained that ADDUS would only bill for time actually worked and that they will be able to cut hours to 80 – 85% of the current level (the County currently provides 99% of the hours). They charge a rate of \$15.39 per hour. Even if they only bill for 85% of the hours, it will cost more than the individual providers. ADDUS is currently only working with three other counties. The Advisory Committee by law is responsible for making a recommendation about the mode of service to the BOS. Ms. Lynch said that the Committee needs to be ready with a recommendation. Ms. Lyall said she feels that if this is agreed to, she will be giving up her freedom to this company because she believes they will come in, do their job, they will leave and the second shift will come in and no one will work together. It was suggested that the Committee needs to get background information about other counties ADDUS has worked in. A motion was made to have a small group put together some information about the ADDUS proposal and empower the Committee to make a recommendation to the BOS about a contract with ADDUS. (Stuart/Lopez-Coles)

A question was asked about how many workgroups the BOS has focusing on IHSS. There are two, one of the workgroups has put together data and that was presented to the BOS. The Board also called for a Task Force which grew out of the Elderly Death Review Team's report on IHSS.

## **VII. New Business:**

- A. CICA Joint County Training Session – Ms. Lyall was contacted by CICA and they want to have a regional joint county training session of the Advisory Committees. The location is to be determined and it will involve six counties. The training is to learn about CICA, what they do and it would help train members on how to advocate with the Board. Ms. Lyall will be getting more information and she will let the Committee know as soon as she receives anything further.

## **VIII. Old Business:**

Supportive Life Conference – Ms. Lyall asked who would like to attend the Supportive Life Conference this year. Ms. Powmacwizalord said she would like to attend. Ms. Lyall clarified the advantage for people attending these type of conferences is that it gives both the caregivers and the recipients information on what is offered to people with disabilities. A motion was made for Ms. Powmacwizalord to attend the conference. (Kinley/Stuart) The motion was approved with one no vote (Wade).

## **IX. Public Comments – None**

## **X. Adjournment – Ms. Lyall adjourned the meeting at 3:00 P.M.**