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**STANISLAUS COUNTY
IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
12/09/05**

Committee Members Present:

Madelyn Amaral
Rose Martin
Linda White

Dwight Bateman
Ora Scruggs

Kenny Brown
George Sharp

Committee Members Absent:

*Connie Muller

Jose Acosta

Mary Burch

IHSS Staff Present:

Jeff Lambaren
Egon Stammer

Maria Childers
Jennifer DeSanto

Robert Taylor

**Advance notice given.*

OPENING REMARKS by Kenny Brown

- Meeting called to order at 1:10

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None were presented

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- April 22, 2005 minutes: Motion M/S/A to accept minutes, motion to accept made by Dwight Bateman. George Sharp seconded. Ora Scruggs abstained, motion passed.

PUBLIC AUTHORITY

- Jeff Lambaren stated that the selection of registry software is moving forward, county counsel has been given their formation, and we are waiting to hear back from them before moving forward.

- A letter is being sent to providers notifying them that the Public Authority will be taking over the Registry effective January 1st. In order to be on the registry, providers will be required to go through a background check, fingerprinting, and take classes/training. This will help ensure quality care for recipients.
- Madelyn Amaral questioned the status of the providers currently caring for recipients received via the registry. Jeff explained that providers need only re-register if they want additional clients. Dwight Bateman stated it would be good for all providers who have used the registry in the past to re-apply. Jeff Lambaren referred to the letter, which encourages them to re-apply.
- Registration for providers will be done by hand until the registry software is available. Kenny Brown suggested improvements to the registry details, to help make better matches for providers and recipients.
- Dwight Bateman questioned the budget for the registry costs (fingerprinting, classes, etc.). Jeff Lambaren stated there is \$37 per background check allotted in this year's budget. Projections for next year will be based on the activity from this year.
- Madelyn Amaral asked what was being done to prevent illegal aliens from working for the registry or within IHSS. Maria Childers stated that all Social Security numbers are checked. Anyone without a valid SS number is notified and dropped from the system. They are paid only until the notification is given, following labor law guidelines.
- Jeff Lambaren stated that consumers could request that their current providers be fingerprinted. If this service is used the providers must also complete the mandatory registry classes. To sign up for the registry, providers need to call or stop by during business hours to get information.
- Jeff Lambaren requested that the committee review the letter to recipients regarding the registry and contact the office by December 14th with any changes they feel are necessary.
- Madelyn Amaral suggested newspaper/television ads for the registry. Jeff Lambaren stated he has spoken with PIO for the county and is working on other avenues to advertise to potential clients and providers.
- Dwight Bateman questioned if a contract for the classes/training was in place. Jeff Lambaren responded that the contract in place with Center for Senior Employment (through CSA) was being continued on a week to week basis for training. Dwight Bateman suggested an RFP process to give other public entities an opportunity to be a part. Jeff Lambaren concurred.
- CICA Conference materials were given out. Discussion ensued regarding the purpose of the CICA, and the benefits it would have for Stanislaus County recipients and providers. The IHSSAC does not see a clear objective or benefit of CICA at this time. The CICA Conference will be put on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.
- Jeff Lambaren stated they received an unfair labor practice notice from the UDW.
- No local representative has been identified, despite multiple requests by Jeff Lambaren to the San Diego office.
- Madelyn Amaral feels that funds should not be taken by the State for Union dues. Discussion ensued, regarding union involvement, progression of the program, and union responsibilities. Regarding the union dues, Maria Childers stated that once the providers voted the UDW as their representatives, dues were taken out by the current payroll providers, whom just happened to be the State. There is no collaboration evident; it was simply standard practice.
- Jeff Lambaren received a letter from the union regarding the MOU stating that three options should be given for conscientious objectors. The letter was addressed to Jeff Lambaren and five other union representatives. Jeff Lambaren responded. DRAIL was one of the options listed.
- A draft version of the Public Authority newsletter was distributed. Jeff Lambaren requested the members look over the newsletter and provide feedback. The newsletter will be sent to all recipients and providers on a quarterly basis. A suggestion was made that the newsletter be sent semi-annually in both Spanish and English (rotating the two quarterly). Linda White suggested the committee meeting times and dates be listed on the newsletter. Dwight Bateman suggested a website address be added for the PA and IHSSAC.

BYLAWS AMENDMENT

- Handout with proposed changes distributed to members. New proposal states that current members continue to serve until a replacement is found. Dwight Bateman made a motion to approve changes. Linda White seconded. Chairman put amendment to vote, motion passed.

NEW IHSSAC MEMBER UPDATE

- Jeff Lambaren reported that one individual has expressed interest in joining the committee. The Board of Supervisors has the application and is reviewing it. Henry Dill was encouraged to apply, but his application hasn't yet been received. At least 50% of committee must be recipients, with the remaining members being providers or other individuals.
- Jeff Lambaren clarified the term limits. The policy states that time served by individuals completing a term for another member does not count toward that individual. So, since Rose Martin and Ora Scruggs began serving under another member's term, that time does not apply to their term limits. Dwight Bateman suggested this be put into the bylaws.

CICA MEMBERSHIP

- Discussion earlier indicated that the IHSSAC was not interested at this time in joining CICA.
- Dwight Bateman requested input from the PA Executive Director. Jeff Lambaren recommended not joining at this time, as it is seen as duplication. He will alert the board of reason for reconsideration develops.
- Dwight Bateman made a motion not to join, George Sharp seconded. Chairman put the issue to vote and committee voted unanimously not to join at this time.
- Dwight Bateman questioned if CAPA discussed moving this to the sub-committee level. Jeff Lambaren stated that there was, and they are still exploring the benefits/practicality of this.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- George Sharp reported that the State is on break, so not much is happening on the State legislative level at this time. Federally, there is not much movement on IHSS issues, because other issues are taking precedence.
- Medicare Part D is taking effect, with new information coming in weekly. At this point, there has not been much public notice, but at the end of the first quarter of 2006, confusion is anticipated as recipients try for the first time to renew medications under the new program. Those on Medicare/Medi-cal will be most affected by the changes.
- Maria Childers stated the website for Medicare Part D is available for viewing. George Sharp will bring in more information next month.
- Olmstead information was discussed. Dwight Bateman suggested the committee members keep themselves up to date on the progress of this.
- Dwight Bateman stated the assisted suicide bill is being re-introduced to the legislature as AB651 – renamed the Compassionate Choices Act.
- Dwight Bateman also reported that Senator Leslie would not re-introduce the 90-day bill for ADA compliance. Instead, they are introducing a bill with tax benefits. Most of the ADA issues affecting businesses are basic, but lawsuits are occurring due to unmandated laws. The lawsuits are being generated without access issues occurring (i.e., lawyers can sue without ever entering a building, if they know the business is out of compliance.)

ANNUAL REPORT

- Kenny Brown delivered a disc with notes for the report to Jeff Lambaren today. Jeff Lambaren will get quotes on the material, and have a draft for committee review next month.

BUDGET/STATE

- Nothing to report

HOT TOPICS

- Kenny Brown alerted the committee that the reasonable accommodation statement on the agenda sill had Maria Childers name as a contact. This can now be updated, since the PA is up and running.
- There was a general discussion regarding the need for audio equipment. Jeff Lambaren suggested it might be more cost effective to purchase the equipment rather than rent each month. The Public Authority would be willing to give funds for this. Madelyn Amaral suggested the IHSSAC budget could also be reviewed to see if funds would be available, and possibly split the costs.

- Dwight Bateman suggested alternate formats that may be needed to accommodate the public, such as Braille, Assisted Listening Devices, Large Print documents, etc. Also discussed the process involved in getting an interpreter if needed. Dwight Bateman stated DRAIL could help with some of these accommodations if the need arises.
- Madelyn Amaral requested clarification that the pay raises effective Dec. 1 would show on the Dec. 15th paychecks. Jeff Lambaren stated this would be the case.
- Egon Stammler requested volunteers to take part in a focus group to create a curriculum for persons interested in working with adults. Dwight Bateman gave some names of organizations that might be interested in participating. Kenny Brown, George Sharp and Ora Scruggs volunteered to participate.

GENERAL UPDATE

- Dwight Bateman requested status on contacting the union for local contact information and general updates. Jeff Lambaren stated he made a couple of phone calls, but no information has been sent. Dwight Bateman suggested sending a letter with the request for information.
- The Board of Supervisors authorized a stipend increase from \$20 to \$30 on October 11th, effective October 1st, 2005.
- Jeff Lambaren is scheduled to do a presentation on the first year of the Public Authority. This is tentatively scheduled for January 31st, during a day meeting of the BOS. Members of the committee will be notified when the date and time are firmly established.
- The next IHSSAC meeting will be on January 13th at the Public Authority office.

Meeting adjourned @ 2:45 PM
Jennifer DeSanto, Recorder