

San Bernardino County IHSS Advisory Committee



784 E Hospitality Ln
San Bernardino CA 92415
March 3, 2021 Wednesday
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Teleconference

Minutes

Members Present

Flora Martinez
Celina Rwengo
Lance Hoshaw
Diane Chapman
Sheila Johnson (IHSS)

Members Absent

Marilyn Interian Matey
Linda Lovett

Members of the Public

Randy Schlecht
Barbara Chastain
Mary Gillion
Sharon Swayzer
Enrique Camacho (SEIU)
Wendy Whitaker (SEIU)

Public Authority Staff

Romina Price
Myette Christian
Tannya Munoz

MINUTES

1. Meeting took place over the phone via WebEx. Call to order and roll call – 09:11 A.M. Quorum met.

2. APPROVE MINUTES
 - Approve minutes from January 6, 2021 meeting
 - No objections stated from committee. Flora stated minutes are approved.

3. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA
 - Flora requested to modify the following agenda items.
 - Remove “Update on Recruitment” from item #9 Old Business as it’s indicated as item #10 under New Business.
 - Add “Update on Trainings” to item #9 Old Business
 - Flora motioned amendment to approve agenda
 - Celina motioned, Sheila 2nd motion

4. IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION AND MEMBER REPORT
 - Introductions:
 - Celina Rwengo- Nothing to report. Liked the final print of the brochures; would like to request brochures to start passing out. Tannya stated request can be mailed or scheduled to pick up and to please coordinate with Romina.
 - Diane Chapman- no report at this time, just glad to be able to join meetings again and glad everyone seems to be healthy going into the New Year.
 - Lance Hoshaw- Nothing to report and glad everyone is healthy
 - Flora Martinez- Glad everyone was able to join as there is a lot of information to share. Nothing to report at this time.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS
 - Randy Schlecht- glad everyone was able to join the meeting and glad to hear from everyone. Would like to appreciate the time and dedication taken from everyone to take part in the committee and being available for the public during these hard times.
 - Enrique Camacho
 - Vaccine distribution-Union currently working with PA, the county, and the Public Health Department with sharing vaccination dates for providers. Union has been sharing dates with providers through social media and email blast.
 - We Can Do It Campaign: Union will reach out to as many providers possible to encourage them to get vaccinated.
 - Medical Benefits: Received increase funding and currently waiting for other bids from health providers other than Kaiser. Hopefully lower prices from other health providers, more caregivers can receive health benefits. Will meet with the county in March to discuss further details and will have a final decision to move forward.

 - Wendy Whitaker

- Hope everyone is well and healthy
- Union is currently promoting long term health for all
 - Calling congress every day to promote the Biden plan, the minimum wage increase and the stimulus payments
- Have made over 1,000 calls thus far and continuing through the end of March

6. IHSS PUBLIC AUTHORITY REPORT-Rosa Hidalgo/Myette Christian

○ Myette Christian

- Hope all is well as we make our way through the end of the pandemic.
- Public Authority has been very busy with continuing to make a priority with linking care providers to their new recipients and ensuring they get paid.
 - The wait time for linking providers is about 2 days from date enrollment packet is received.
- As the union has mentioned, PA has also been working with Public Health and the county in getting the message out to providers to get vaccinated.
 - An email account has been created to send messages to over 30,000 providers to inform them of when dates are available and how to register.
 - Contrary to what was spoken previously, we have been seeing a lot of email responses. If there have been issues perhaps it could be that the provider's email is incorrect or incoming email is sent to spam folder
 - With 99.3% of providers being enrolled in ETS, email addresses we're responding to should be correct.
- Approx. 10,000 providers have been vaccinated, but there are a lot more to be vaccinated. Dept. continues to encourage providers to get vaccinated.
- Registry is still in need of caregivers to serve IHSS clients.
- Diane Chapman ask if her caregiver qualifies to be vaccinated. Or is it still based on 65 and older?
 - Myette states the County has considered IHSS providers to be eligible regardless if they are under the age of 65. If she is a registered IHSS provider she can register to get the vaccine regardless of how old she is.
- Sharon Swayzer states she was informed only registry providers are eligible for COVID pay and feels that all providers should be eligible. Is this correct?
 - Myette states information provided is incorrect. If it is documented that you are an IHSS care giver, then the state determines that you are eligible for the COVID-19 differential pay if you are caring for client that has contacted COVID-19. Should follow up with the IHSS social worker to make changes in the system for the differential pay to go into effect.
 - Myette will follow up to see if she receives any additional information and Flora asked if she can also provide information to the committee if she receives it before the next meeting.
- Encourages providers to continue to contact PA for PPE requests and encourages to continue test for COVID-19
 - Flora asked if there is a limit of PPE per request.

- Myette states packages are provided for the provider and client, however, can't provide bulk.

7. DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES REPORT

- Sheila Johnson states:
 - Total number of IHSS cases for San Bernardino are 35,240.
 - Average caseload size is 375 clients
 - Dept. had 386 new referrals in January
 - DAAS is hosting a Senior Vaccination Event for IHSS clients aged 65 and older.
 - Event provides 100 doses and vaccinating 96 people
 - There are also pop up clinics such- exemplified California Speedway.
 - You do have to register to make an appointment, no walk-ins are accepted.
 - Current eligibility to take the vaccine is 65 and older.
 - Can visit county vaccination website for more information and to register at SBCOVID-19.com/vaccine. You can also receive alerts through the vaccination website.

8. DISCUSSION

- CICA Report
 - Celina states last attended event was just informational. Their goal is to try to make the registry known and recruit more members.
 - vaccine information was provided and a lot of public comments
 - Attended the Decluttering class and thought it was very informative
 - Is holding informational meetings about once or twice a month.
 - If you would like to attend, will provide information later.
 - Myette asked to clarify "Registry" she referred to.
 - Celina clarifies she referred more to clients than caregivers.
 - No other items to report at this time.
- Legislation/Links/Helpful Resources
 - Flora provides links and hopes other members can benefit or know someone who can benefit from these resources. Provided links for members to review on their own time and if no internet access then she can contact Romina to copy and paste and perhaps provide via mail.
 - California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Information
 - In Home Supportive Services Legislative Staff Briefing by Debbi Thomson, Deputy Director
 - ACIN No. 1-3-21 Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Implementation and Modifications to the Electronic Services Portal (ESP) For IHSS and Waiver Personal Care Services Live-In Providers
 - ACL No. 21-11 CalFresh Student Eligibility: COVID-19 Relief Package
 - ACIN No. 1-11-21 Temporary Increase In CalFresh Maximum Allotments Due to COVID -19 Effective January 1, 2021

- ACL No. 21-8 Updated COVID-19 Related Exceptions To In-Person Monthly Caseworker Visitation Requirements for Dependent Children, Nonminor Dependents, and Wards
 - ALC No. 21-13 CalFresh Medical Expense Deduction for Elderly or Disabled Household Members
 - CDSS Resources
 - Being Prepared For Power Outages
 - Personal Emergency Plan For People with Access and Functional Needs
 - Upcoming Events
 - CICA and California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) –March 5, 2021 at 12 Noon
 - California Foundation for Independent Living Center (CFILC) and California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) –April 22, 2021
 - Census Data
 - Gov Newsom COVID-19 Proposal SB 88 –One time stimulus payment of \$600
 - SB Vaccine Locations & Registration
 - California Department of Public Health Guidelines effective 2/26/2021
 - Suggestions on any future Agenda Items
 - Flora encourages members to contact/email Romina/Tannya new items to discuss. Would like to keep topics to what is relevant to the committee

9. OLD BUSINESS

- Training
 - Flora asks for an update on Robert Rules and Brown Act training
 - Myette has reached out county counsel. Counsel has agreed to set a date, however, it's been difficult getting through as they are in court a lot
 - As soon as date confirmed will provide to committee.
 - Flora purposes PA provide trainings that can be beneficial to the committee rather than outsource trainings that could be more expensive.
 - Myette states PA only offers caregiver trainings or topics that are geared more to caregivers. Unfortunately, we do not have the capability to conduct trainings on a broader scale at this time.
- Tablets
 - Flora questions whether committee should purchase devices to assist members to attend meetings
 - Diane states using a cell phone has been helpful and was able to get onto the meeting without any trouble. However, whichever decision the committee decides in purchasing or not purchasing tablets, is ok with her.
 - Lance thinks it's a great idea. It may be difficult for people who aren't tech savvy, but again will go with committee decision. Feels committee should write a contract for devices if purchased.
 - Celina- thinks cell phones are more accessible. Would be good when out recruiting as well.

- Myette confirms committee is allowed to purchase cell phones upon a check-out basis and sole purposes of the committee functions.
 - Can pay a monthly fee or subscription and will be upon the committee to finalize what you would like to purchase and how to operate the usage of the phones.
 - Tannya agreed with Myette. There are prepaid cards you can purchase or subscriptions and reiterates it's for committee usage only.
 - Tablet prices range between \$300-\$1,000 per device
 - cell phones range from \$100-500
- The tablets will require member Wi-Fi or internet subscription
- Flora states she will need to commence with committee on which device to purchase.
- Flora asked if Public Authority can assist in creating a contract
- Flora proposed a budget of \$1,000 to purchase devices
 - Tannya asked if committee wants to purchase subscription or pay as you go.
 - All committee members agreed to do pay as you go
- Flora motioned to approve Tannya to purchase 3 devices and not exceed \$1000 and purchase prepaid cards
 - Lance 2nd motion

10. NEW BUSINESS

- Fiscal report-Fiscal Year (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021)
 - Romina states report includes stipends disbursed for the January meeting, stipends for future meetings, trainings attended, and brochures purchased leaving \$3558.12 available.
 - With the \$1,000 allocated to purchase phones and prepaid card will now leave budget of 2,558.12
- Purchase of Supplies
 - Tannya asked committee if there are any supplies they need or to start thinking of future purchase items. Consider having list for upcoming meeting
 - Tannya states SWAG merchandise is not authorized and will forward State email to members.
 - Flora asked if committee should allocate a certain amount to cover trainings such as the Brown's Act.
 - Myette states its ok to set an amount aside for now until she can confirm an exact amount.
 - Flora informed committee to think of items that can be purchased to present to Tannya or Romina by the next meeting.
- Recruitment
 - Romina-only received one application and encourages members to continue recruiting
- Brochures

- Romina states order was received and if you would like to pick up or have requested brochures mailed, please email or call
- Celina asked if brochures will be available in the IHSS offices
 - Sheila states she will make some available in the Victorville office.
- Celina asked where else flyers or brochures can be posted. Can you post in a laundry mat?
 - Tannya states they can be posted where caregivers, recipients, or individuals with experience see them. States Randy in the past has taken brochures to other committee meetings, passed them out, or dropped off at Inland Regional Center.

11. ADJOURNMENT

- Next meeting 5/5/2021
- Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am
 - Flora motioned, Sheila 2nd motion