

**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE KERN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS****MINUTES****Thursday, July 21, 2022 - 1:34 P.M.****Via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Chair Kaye Davis. The flag salute was conducted, followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL: (*Chairman, **Vice-Chair, ***Secretary [non-voting])

Present:

*Kaye Davis	At-Large Care Provider
Gail Lancaster	Third District Consumer Representative
DeAnna Lewis	At-Large Consumer
Eric Nisbett	County Administration Office Representative
***Jeremy Oliver	Aging and Adult Services
Judy Snyder	Commission on Aging

Excused Absences:

Robin Freeman	Private Industry Representative
**Evelyn Lopez	Individual Provider Representative
NickoleRenee Mensch	Second District Consumer Representative

QUORUM

Secretary Oliver confirmed a quorum was present.

Aging and Adult Services Staff:

Michele Gomez, Program Manager
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist
Kristine Mullen, Social Service Supervisor

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC AND NEW MEMBERS:

None.

Guests:

Sonia Massie, United Domestic Workers Union

Leslie Torres, United Domestic Workers Union

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH 17, 2022** – The minutes were approved with one correction.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)
M/S/A/O – Snyder/Lancaster/None/None – Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 19, 2022** – The minutes were approved as prepared.
M/S/A/O – Snyder/Lancaster/None/None – Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- **Appointment Report** – Jeremy Oliver
 - **Reappointments:** Kaye Davis – Reappointed by Board of Supervisors. New term expires June 30, 2024.
 - **New appointments:** None.
 - **Expired appointments:** NickoleRenee Mensch – Term expired June 30, 2022. Laura sent a reappointment letter to District 2.
 - **Appointments soon to expire:** None.
 - **Resignations:** None.
 - **Vacancies:** There are 3 Consumer vacancies:
 - 1 in Supervisorial District 1
 - 1 in Supervisorial District 4
 - 1 in Supervisorial District 5

New Applications: None.

AGING AND ADULT SERVICES STAFF REPORTS:

IHSS Report - Michele Gomez:

Michele Gomez reported there are 10,614 active IHSS recipients. Our stats with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) show we are processing Intakes at 93% within 90 days. Annual reassessments are being processed at a 91% compliance rate that we are seeing them once each year. We have new hires coming on board to get them trained and ready to help as our IHSS cases continue to grow. Right now, we are receiving about 700 new applications each month, and each caseload has an average of 215 cases. They receive each month, doubling from 250 to 300 applications a couple of years ago. The Governor passed an Act for a permanent provider backup system. We currently have a backup system in place since COVID; however, this new permanent backup system will be effective no later than October 1, 2022. CDSS is still working out all the details and they will define the immediate urgency need for a provider. This new permanent backup system is intended to be used for temporary assistance and will be capped at 80 hours per year (July 1 through June 30) and will be reset every year. There may be some exceptions to this 80-hour limit. County staff will be responsible for tracking these hours. We are still figuring out the details.

Interim Director's Report – Jeremy Oliver:

FEDERAL

The Senate continues to work on the budget that will be submitted in September. Bill language for prescription drug reform as released last week that includes authorizing Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices, expands Low Income Subsidy to people with incomes between 135% and 150% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and capping all part D enrollees' out-of-pocket costs at \$2,000 starting in 2025.

The Department of Health & Human Services has extended the Public Health Emergency (PHE) until October of this year. Plan is to notify all 60 days prior to ending the PHE.

STATE

State Budget approved by Governor on June 30, 20

Middle Class Tax Refund

Governor and legislator established and may see up to \$1050 return if you filed a joint tax return with a dependent and made less than \$150,000 for tax year 2020. Without a dependent, it would be \$700. Tiers change as you exceed \$150,000 to \$250K with a payment amount of \$500 and \$250K-500K receiving \$400 by end of October to January of 2023. Single filers may expect \$350, \$250, \$200 respectively without dependents.

Housing & Homelessness

The Budget includes the continued historic investments in our Housing and Homelessness programs. These one-time funds will allow the Department to continue to support children, families, former youth, people with disabilities and

older adults. The budget provides \$55 million in operating subsidies for Board and Care Facilities. This is a one-time investment will assist settings that provide housing and assistance for at-risk Californians, many of whom are receiving Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP).

The Budget includes \$150 million for an SSP Payment increase in January 2023, which will increase the grants for all SSI/SSP and Cash Assistance Program for Immigrant recipients. Equates to about \$39/month increase.

CARE COURTS

Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court. Allocates 39.5 million to new Care Court system that will compel people living on the streets with severe mental illness into treatment.

IHSS

For the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program, the Budget includes \$34.4 million total funds ongoing to establish a permanent back-up provider system for IHSS recipients to avoid disruptions to caregiving due to an immediate need or emergency. Provides a \$2 wage differential for backup providers.

APS

For the Adult Protective Services Program (APS), the Budget includes \$4.6 million ongoing for the continuation of the APS training program.

Department of Aging

Modernizing the Older Californians Act—\$59.3 million General Fund to provide one-time funding to pilot restoring various local aging programs such as Community Based Support Programs, Family and Caregiver Support, Aging in Place, and Senior Volunteer Development.

Locally

The County Budget is in process of being enacted with an evening session on July 25, 2022. The Department has submitted a proposed budget and will await the outcome of the budget process to proceed.

The Department continues to seek additional staff to fill vacant positions and will be expanding into an additional suite 5375 formerly Residential Design space. Will be placing Protective Services staff in this new location.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

Laura Juarez thanked the committee members who have already taken and provided her with a copy of their Ethics Training certificate. If you are due to take the course this year, please do so as soon as possible online at www.ca-ilg.org/abc123compliance. Also, please remember to let Laura know whether you will be attending the meetings. This is helpful to know if we will reach quorum to approve Action Items.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2022, at 1:30 p.m., via Zoom. Contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052 for the link to join via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Oliver, Secretary

JO/lj