

**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE KERN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS****MINUTES****Thursday, September 15, 2022 - 1:30 P.M.****Via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 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
Robin Freeman	Private Industry Representative
Gail Lancaster	Third District Consumer Representative
Eric Nisbett	County Administration Office Representative
Judy Snyder	Commission on Aging

Excused Absences:

DeAnna Lewis	At-Large Consumer
**Evelyn Lopez	Individual Provider Representative
NickoleRenee Mensch	Second District Consumer Representative
***Jeremy Oliver	Aging and Adult Services

QUORUM

Michele Gomez, for Jeremy Oliver, confirmed a quorum was present.

Aging and Adult Services Staff:

Michele Gomez, Program Manager
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC AND NEW MEMBERS:

None.

Guests:

None.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY 21, 2022** – The minutes were approved with one correction.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)
M/S/A/O – Snyder/Lancaster/Freeman/None – Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- **Senior Day at the Kern County Fair** – Laura Juarez announced Senior Day at the Fair is Friday, September 23, 2022. There will be free admission and parking for seniors 62+ years until 4 p.m. Gates open at 9 a.m.
- **Senior Celebration** – Judy Snyder announced a Senior Celebration BINGO is scheduled for Saturday, October 22, 2022 from 1 – 4 p.m. at the Rasmussen Senior Center. This is a free event for Seniors 60+ years. Due to seating capacity, all attendees must register in order to attend by calling Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052
- **Appointment Report** – Michele Gomez, for Jeremy Oliver
 - **Reappointments:** NickoleRenee Mensch – Reappointed by Supervisorial District 2. New term expires June 30, 2024.
 - **New appointments:** None.
 - **Expired appointments:** None.
 - **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:

IHSS Career Pathways Program Training Payment Incentive Claims (\$3,500)

Providers are eligible for IHSS Program Career Pathways Program training incentive payments when they have completed at least 15 hours of training within any of the five Career Pathways:

- Adult Education
- General Health/Safety
- Cognitive Impairment Behavioral Health
- Complex Physical Care Needs
- Transition to Home/Community Living

Providers will have the ability to log into their ESP accounts and submit claims for payment for their training incentives once they have met the requirement.

- Successfully complete 15 hours of coursework for a specific career pathway. (\$500)
- Successfully complete 15 hours of coursework for a specialized skills career pathway and working for recipients who need that type of specialized care and providing 40 authorized hours of care to one or more recipients in the first month of service. (2x\$500=\$1000)
- Successfully complete 15 hours of coursework for a specialized skills career pathway and working for a recipient who needs that type of specialized care and providing 40 authorized hours of care to one or more recipients per month for at least six months. (\$2000)

Statewide IHSS Back-Up Provider System (BUPS)

The permanent BUPS will become effective October 1, 2022. Public Authority will establish a list of enrolled providers who are eligible and able to provide emergency back-up services for recipients whose regular providers are unable to provide their IHSS. IHSS recipient would be eligible for a temporary back-up provider if they have an urgent need for back-up supportive services related to personal care services that cannot be met by an existing provider or the urgent need cannot be met because the recipient is transitioning to home-based care and does not yet have an identified provider. Recipient and/or their authorized representative should be advised that the BUPS is intended to be used for temporary assistance that is capped at 80 hours (or 160 hours for severely impaired recipients) and they will need to hire a permanent provider. Back-up providers will be paid \$2.00 per hour more than current locally negotiated wage rate. The BUPS shall be operated by Public Authority during normal county operating hours Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Interim Director's Report – Michele Gomez, for Jeremy Oliver:

FEDERAL

The Inflation Reduction Act in part:

1. Expands Medicare benefits: free vaccines (2023), \$35/month insulin (2023) and caps out-of-pocket drug costs to an estimated \$4,000 or less in 2024 and settling at \$2,000 in 2025
2. Lowers energy bills: cuts energy bills by \$500 to \$1,000 per year
3. Makes historic climate investment: reduces carbon emissions by roughly 40% by 2030
4. Lowers health care costs: saves the average enrollee \$800/year in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace, allows Medicare to negotiate 100 drugs over the next decade, and requires drug companies to rebate back price increases higher than inflation.

STATE

We are awaiting clarification on some of the recent bills passed and directives on Backup Provider Registry.

Locally

The County Budget passed and AAS Department will see some additional staff in the IHSS program. The Department continues to make efforts to fill vacant positions. The County will hold a Career Expo on Saturday, September 17th from 9 am to 1 pm at the Kern County Administrative Building, 1115 Truxtun Avenue. The Department will be participating in the Expo.

September 23 is Senior Day at Kern County Fairgrounds. The department has rebranded with new logo to match with County logo and groundless and boundless campaign.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

If you are due to take the Ethics Training course this year, please do so as soon as possible online at www.ca-ilg.org/abc123compliance and provide a copy of your certificate to Laura Juarez.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 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 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Gomez for
Jeremy Oliver, Secretary

MG/lj