

**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE KERN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS****MINUTES****Thursday, January 19, 2023 - 1:30 P.M.****Via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 1:41 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
Nickole Renee Mensch	Second District Consumer Representative
Eric Nisbett	County Administration Office Representative
***Jeremy Oliver	Aging and Adult Services
Judy Snyder	Commission on Aging

Excused Absences:

Robin Freeman	Private Industry Representative
DeAnna Lewis	At-Large Consumer
**Evelyn Lopez	Individual Provider Representative

QUORUM

Jeremy Oliver confirmed a quorum was present.

Aging and Adult Services Staff:

Michele Gomez, Program Manager
Laura Juarez, Office Services Coordinator

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC AND NEW MEMBERS:

Elizabeth McKinely, District Attorney's Office
Vivian Anfos, United Domestic Workers Union, Kern County

Guests:

None.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 15, 2022** – The minutes were approved as prepared. Motion/Second/Abstention/Sustain (M/S/A/O) – Snyder/Lancaster/Mensch/None – Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2022** – The minutes were approved as prepared. M/S/A/O – Lancaster/Snyder/Nisbett, Mensch/None – Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF 2023 IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE** - The schedule was 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:** None.
 - **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:

Kern County's IHSS caseload as of November 2022 was 11,220, with an 11% growth, pending December numbers. The Intake growth is 40%. Currently our compliance for Recertifications is 85%, and Intakes is 90%.

Director's Report – Jeremy Oliver:

FEDERAL

In December, Congress and the President released the Omnibus Appropriations Bill. This bill included federal funds for Older Americans Act which provides funding for many of the Department's programs such as Home and Community Based Services, Nutrition, Family Caregiver Support Programs, Native American Nutrition/Supportive Caregiver Services, Evidence-Based Health Promotion, State Health Insurance Assistance Programs, Disease Prevention, and Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. Each program saw a modest increase in funding levels for the next year. Additionally, it provided additional funding for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and included language that requires lifting of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) requirements under Medi-Cal by April 1, 2023.

This will result in Medi-Cal redeterminations to be restored for those that meet the requirements for annual redeterminations. Clients who receive Supplemental Security Income or SSI would not fall into this category, but we anticipate about 40% of our IHSS clients will meet the requirements to have redeterminations of their Medi-Cal. Please be sure to watch for any notices for redeterminations and ensure that instructions are followed or IHSS services may be held up if Medi-Cal terminates.

STATE

Governor Newsom has declared that the COVID-19 State of Emergency will be lifted at the end of February 2023. All should see additional program requirements returning to pre-pandemic operations. This impacts meetings per the Brown Act and a return to in person meetings. There are some exceptions that allow teleconferencing but in general they are not as liberal as the current allowances.

The Governor released his budget in which there is an estimated 23-billion-dollar short fall in anticipated revenues. Currently he is not proposing to tap into the 36-billion-dollar reserves. To address the projected budget deficit, the Governor's Budget proposes funding delays, reductions and pullbacks, fund shifts, trigger reductions, and limited revenue generation and borrowing. Although we do not have comprehensive lists yet of the impacted items in each of these categories, it is our understanding that most of them are not in the health and human services area.

The budget projects a 4.9% increase in IHSS caseload for this year 2022/23 and 4.3% in 2023/24. Additional funding will be allocated to the Electronic Visit Verification to bring CA in compliance with the Federal 21st Century Cures Act requirements (the state is currently out of compliance and being penalized for this). The state has reduced funding for IHSS social worker training.

New Laws:

Have been added that may impact Caregivers:

AB 2338 – Designating Health Care Surrogates

AB 1663- Probate Conservatorship Reforms

Will share more information on these new laws at our next meeting.

Locally

The Department continues to see growth in referrals and is seeking additional workspace to accommodate staff expansion.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

None.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2023 at 1:30 p.m., at Aging and Adult Services in the Bob Fowler Conference Room, 5357 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93309.

The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Oliver, Secretary

JO/lj