

**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE KERN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS****MINUTES****Thursday, March 16, 2023 - 1:30 P.M.****Via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 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
NickoleRenee Mensch	Second District Consumer Representative
***Jeremy Oliver	Aging and Adult Services
Judy Snyder	Commission on Aging

Excused Absences:

DeAnna Lewis	At-Large Consumer
**Evelyn Lopez	Individual Provider Representative
Eric Nisbett	County Administration Office 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:

Mario Parada, United Domestic Workers Union, Kern County
Sonya Massie, United Domestic Workers Union, Kern County

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 19, 2023** – The minutes were approved as prepared. M/S/A/O – Snyder/Lancaster/Freeman/None – Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

- Mario Parada announced a large event is planned for March 17, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. at Yokuts Park to protest in opposition to MediCare and Social Security cuts. They are expecting a large crowd and invite everyone to attend and support them. They will be marching to House Speaker, Kevin McCarthy's Bakersfield office. The event was organized by California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA).

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- **Proposed Budget for IHSS Staff** – Gail Lancaster had a question about the IHSS proposed budget and how IHSS consistently relied on 70 extra-help employees last year and proposed the same for the next year. Are there plans to increase the number of full-time, permanent Social Service Workers (SSW) and decrease the amount of extra-help SSW. Jeremy Oliver shared that there are many challenges with the budget is that some of it is dependent on the State and Federal so we are waiting to see if they will make any adjustments to an ongoing funding stream. Anything that we exceed beyond what the State provides there is a cost match with our Maintenance of Effort. When we start to exceed the amount that we would put in, that's when it makes it difficult for us to hire or extend beyond. Right now, we are in budget discussions, and we will be developing our budget for the next fiscal year. The goal for that budget is to hire permanent staff if we have as stable fund to rely on to dedicate those funds. The cost to utilize extra-help is more effective so that we can have more bodies. The extra-help terms are now two years terms. We are hopeful that the State will recognize the increase in demand. As you may know, there are also some issues with the State budget. They're projecting a shortfall of \$28 billion.
- **Director Appointment** – Judy Snyder congratulated Jeremy Oliver on his promotion and appointment as Director of Aging and Adult Services Department.
- **Commission on Aging (COA) Meetings** – Judy Snyder announced that the COA meetings will be back in person and the next meeting will be at the Bakersfield Senior Center, 530 4th Street, Bakersfield, CA, at 1 p.m. on March 21, 2023. Our guest speaker, Supervisor Leticia Perez, will begin speaking at 11:45 a.m. The COA meets 10 months out of the year, dark in August and December, and they rotate their meeting locations around different senior centers throughout the County. April's meeting will be in California City. Everyone is welcome to attend these public meetings.

- **Aging and Adult Services** - Gail Lancaster complimented Aging and Adult Services overall, and for Carolina Oehler, who has given presentations in a couple of groups she's in and they are always excellent, and people are always talking about them afterwards about how informative they were. The presentations they give are great and cover all the different services provided by Aging and Adult Services. The presentations can be done in person or virtually. Classes are usually posted on our social media platforms. There are also flyers available in the lobby. If there is ever a request for a presentation let Jeremy know.
- **CalFresh Maximum Benefit Decrease** – A maximum allotment for the CalFresh benefit was given during the pandemic. The maximum amount will be decreased to the original eligible month amount effective March (taking effect in April). Announcements and flyers have been sent to CalFresh recipients. As the cost of food has increased, this could really have a big impact on those receiving Social Security, who may not be able to scale back in preparation for the decrease. Food banks and CAPK will be available for individuals needing food; however, this can also put pressure on those programs.
- **Appointment Report** – Jeremy Oliver
 - **Reappointments:** None.
 - **New appointments:** None.
 - **Expired appointments:** None.
 - **Appointments soon to expire:**
 1. Judy Snyder, term expires 06/30/2023
 2. Gail Lancaster, term expires 06/30/2023
 3. Deanna Lewis, term expires 06/30/2023
 4. Robin Freeman, term expires 06/30/2023
 5. Evelyn Lopez, term expires 06/30/2023

Laura will contact each member and ask if they wish to continue serving, and if so, will submit a letter of reappointment.

- **Resignations:** None.
- **Vacancies:** There are 3 Consumer vacancies:
 - 1 in Supervisorial District 1, expires 06/30/2024
 - 1 in Supervisorial District 4, expires 06/30/2024
 - 1 in Supervisorial District 5, expires 06/30/2023
- **New Applications:** None.

AGING AND ADULT SERVICES STAFF REPORTS:

IHSS Report – Jeremy Oliver (for Michele Gomez):

Kern County's IHSS CFCO case rate has gone up in January 2023 to 90%, and an average of 88.4% for February, which is below the compliance rate of 90%. For our applications processing, we have a slight increase for those over 90 due to 105. Our processing within 90 days is about 77.5% in February, we've averaged 88.7%, which is still above the 80% compliance rate. Reassessments are at 85.5% in January, and we've averaged at 85.6%, which is above the 85% compliance for February. We remain steady in some areas and having a little bit of adjustments in other areas, and we will continue to work on getting those cases back up into compliance range.

Kaye asked what the training timeframe is from when a new Social Worker is hired to when they can go out on their own. Jeremy responded it depends, but it takes about 3 months to get staff trained on the regulations, and then they start giving them cases and shadowing with staff. It could be 3-6 months before they can go out on their own.

Director's Report – Jeremy Oliver:

FEDERAL

The United States Senate Special Committee on Aging introduced new Legislation to begin to eliminate home care services waiting lists. The Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Access Act is designed to ensure eligible older adults and people with disabilities have a real choice of care and support options between home care and institutional care. The bill would, over time, eliminate HCBS waiting lists and the need for states to repeatedly apply for HCBS waivers. Specifically, the bill would:

- Increase Medicaid funding for home and community-based services;
- Provide grant funding for states to expand their capacity to meet the needs of people who prefer HCBS;
- Make steps to improve the stability, availability, and quality of direct care providers to help address the decades-long workforce shortage crisis;
- Provide states with resources so that caregiving workers—who are disproportionately women of color—have stable, quality jobs and a living wage;
- Provide training and support for family caregivers; and
- Create better evaluation measures to assess the quality of HCBS being provided.

STATE

We continue to watch for funding and await updates to the state budget with anticipated revenue shortages at the state level.

AB 2338 – Designating Health Care Surrogates- previously discussed amended Probate code 4712 to if a patient lacks the capacity to make a health care decision, but does not have a legally recognized health care decisionmaker pursuant to subdivision (a), a health care provider or a designee of the health care facility caring for the patient may choose a surrogate to make health care decisions on the patient's behalf, as appropriate in the given situation. The patient's surrogate shall be an adult who has demonstrated special care and concern for the patient, is familiar with the patient's personal values and beliefs to the extent known and is reasonably available and willing to serve. A surrogate may be chosen from any of the following persons:

- (1) The spouse or domestic partner of the patient.
- (2) An adult child of the patient.
- (3) A parent of the patient.
- (4) An adult sibling of the patient.
- (5) An adult grandchild of the patient.
- (6) An adult relative or close personal friend.

Additionally, there is a new bill, AB 1672, pending that would change who would be able to negotiate IHSS providers wages or collective bargaining, from Counties to the State.

Locally

The Board of Supervisors appointed Jeremy Oliver to be the Director of the Department. The Department has been assisting clients in the impacted areas of the county due to the recent flooding and evacuations. Initially the Department reached out to those in impacted areas to ensure they were aware of the warnings and evacuations in the area. Additionally, the Department assists with coordinating evacuation efforts, or any additional needs related to being in a shelter. The County continues to monitor the ongoing weather changes and assess the ability to have those impacted return safely to their homes. The Department is in early preparations for a Health Fair event to be held at our location on May 20, 2023, and the Elder Abuse Conference on June 15, 2023, at Hodel's.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

Ethics Training - County Counsel will hold an Ethics training via Microsoft TEAMS on April 27, 2023, at 3 p.m. If you are due to take the training this year and cannot attend this training, you will need to take the course online at www.ca-ilg.org/ab1234compliance and provide a copy of your certificate to Laura Juarez.

Attendance/Communication – As a reminder, for quorum purposes, please contact Laura Juarez to let her know whether you will be attending the meeting. It is requested that everyone please make an assertive effort to attend all meetings so that we have a quorum to conduct business.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 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 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Oliver, Secretary

JO/lj