

**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE KERN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS****MINUTES****Thursday, May 18, 2023 - 1:30 P.M.
Via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Commissioner Snyder. The flag salute was conducted, followed by a moment of silence.

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

Present:

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:

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

QUORUM

Jeremy Oliver confirmed a quorum was not 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

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH 16, 2023** – The minutes were not approved due to no quorum. Tabled to July meeting.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- **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 – Michele Gomez:**

Kern County's IHSS compliance rates for applications processed within 90 days are at 87.31%. Reassessments are at 86.12%. Community First Choice Option (CFCO) reassessments are at 89.48%. There were 11,694 authorized IHSS cases as of March 2023, and 9,931 active providers as of March 2023. There was increase in intake about 750-800/month. A lot of staff is coming up on leaves. Commissioner Snyder asked about the process for a family member to become a provider. Applicants must watch videos, attend orientation, and have a background check. The client can then choose to hire that family member or another approved provider. Gail asked if the provider must have a background in health care. The providers do not but there is training available for different courses, and they may be compensated for taking those courses. There is a lot

of interest and classes fill up quickly. UDW also offers some training on completing timesheets. Michele added that AASD has sponsored some health fairs that show them how to get into the portal. Elizabeth asked if AASD receives 750-800 intakes each month, how many clients are relocating to other counties, or cases closed due to the client's passing. Michele responded that we don't close cases unless we lose contact or if the client moves to a care facility. About 60% are not approved that month due to ineligibility or for not returning requested documents, but they could be approved the following month if they reapply.

Based on additional questions the department will bring back more data for the Committee to review on next meeting. The data will be aggregate on types of clients served.

Director's Report – Jeremy Oliver:

Federal

Everyone is closely watching the June 1 date for when the United States could default on its debt. The President and Congressional Leadership are meeting to negotiate an agreement to raise the debt ceiling. House Speaker McCarthy wants to move forward with the "Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023" ([HR 2811](#)), which the House passed in late April. If enacted, this bill would see cuts to federal spending for programs older adults rely on and reduce food assistance and Medi-Cal benefits from older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers.

State

The Governor recently released his May revise highlighting a projected 31.5-billion-dollar deficit. The Administration's deficit projection assumes that \$42 billion in additional revenue receipts will materialize by October - that this revenue was delayed after California issued an extension for state tax returns for those affected by the onslaught of atmospheric river storms in early 2023. Anything less than \$42 billion in new revenue receipts will add to the \$31.5 billion shortfall.

The May Revision includes \$50 million General Fund over the next three years to support several programs at the Department of Aging. This includes the Older Adult Friendship Line and competitive grants to local jurisdictions to increase capacity to serve older adults with behavioral health and substance use disorder needs. Also included in the budget is a slight increase in administrative funding for IHSS Public Authority functions.

By 2030, the projected growth of individuals 60+ years will be 25% of the population, that's 1 in every 4 persons, so we're doing everything we can to stay ahead of it, but as you know a lot of that is dependent on funding. The Governor's Master Plan on Aging is to try to fix certain measures to ensure that

funding doesn't get pulled aside. Elizabeth asked what percentage of IHSS recipients are in that 60+ category. Michele responded that it's a small number. Jeremy said we can pull that information and provide it at the next meeting. Another reason why we are seeing an increase in numbers is because of Medi-Cal's asset limits have shifted, making more individuals eligible for IHSS services. Commissioner Lancaster asked how many active clients have a share of cost. Most clients are on SSI. When it comes to share of cost issues, we route them to our Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) to try and help reduce that share of cost. Mario shared that AASD's employee, Carolina Oelher, does a great presentation on share of cost.

Department

The Board of Supervisors proclaimed the month of May as "Older Americans Month in Kern County". We want to encourage everyone to participate in the upcoming Older Americans Month Resource Fair on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at Aging and Adult Services, 5357 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield. We will have over 32 vendors, free shredding of documents, Advanced Health Care Directives, demonstrations, health screenings, and more.

The Department is working closely with the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to coordinate any potential impacts of the snow melt. This includes working with our surrounding counties of Tulare and Kings which may also see impacts related to the snow melt. Office of Emergency Services encourages everyone to register at www.ReadyKern.com. The current reserve in the lake is fine. AASD is a part of the OES and we have contacted those areas of concern.

Adult Protective Services (APS) is planning for the Elder Abuse Conference on June 15, 2023, and registration for the event has been released. Among the speakers for this year's conference are Cynthia Zimmer, DA, Donny Youngblood, Sheriff, FBI specialists, Leslie Devitt of Victim Witness, APS panel, and Ombudsman program.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

Ethics Training - County Counsel held their Ethics training via Microsoft TEAMS on April 27, 2023, at 3 p.m. No other classes are scheduled currently for the remainder of the year. If you are due to take the training this year, you will need to take the course online at www.ca-ilg.org/ab1234compliance and provide a

copy of your certificate to Laura Juarez. If you have questions or want to know if you're due to take the training this year, contact Laura and she'll let you know.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for July 20, 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 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Oliver, Secretary

JO/lj