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**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE KERN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

MINUTES

Thursday, January 18 - 1:30 P.M.

PUBLIC AUTHORITY OFFICE

5353 TRUXTUN AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

GOLDEN GENERATION CONFERENCE ROOM

The meeting was called to order at 1:39 p.m. by Chair Flucker. The flag salute was conducted, followed by a moment of silence.

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

Present:

Harvey Clowers

Fourth District Consumer

*Aaron Flucker

Commission on Aging

Evelyn Lopez

Individual Provider Representative

Excused Absences:

Alex Alva, County Administration Office Representative

Robin Freeman, Private Industry Representative

**NickoleRenee Mensch, Second District Consumer Representative

Lito Morillo confirmed a quorum was not present.

Lito Morillo confirmed the agenda had been posted per provisions of the Brown Act.

Aging and Adult Services Staff:

Michele Gomez, Program Director

Laura Juarez, Sr. Office Services Specialist

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC AND NEW MEMBERS:

Guests:

Graydon Argast, Lieutenant, Kern County District Attorney's Office
Elizabeth McKinley, Investigative Aid, Kern County District Attorney's Office
Kaye Davis, Resident Services Coordinator, St. John Manor

New Members:

None

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2017 – NO QUORUM TO APPROVE MINUTES.**

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- The Committee Appointment report was read. No new appointments. Four member's terms will expire June 30, 2018. Laura Juarez will work on reappointments. Vacancies currently exist in Supervisorial Districts 1, 3, and 5 for Consumers, and one vacancy for an At-Large Consumer. There is also one vacancy for an At-Large Care Provider. No applications have been received.

STAFF REPORTS:

Lito Morillo reported the following:

Federal Government

Budget – looking at continuing resolution (CR) to keep federal government going for a few weeks and in order to avoid a government shutdown. They have to pass a budget by Friday or issue a CR to avoid a shutdown. The previous CR was issued on December 22, 2017, and it will expire January 19, 2018. The government did shut down for a couple of days but another CR was issued that extended federal spending through February 8, 2018 to allow 2-3 weeks for budget negotiations.

All Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries will receive a 2% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) increase in their benefit amount. The federal SSI payment increases from \$735/month to \$750/ month for an individual and from \$1,103/month for a couple to \$1,125/month for a couple.

The Medicare Part B premium is unchanged at \$134/month. However, many people have been paying a lower amount—on average \$109—because of a “hold harmless” provision that prohibited Medicare from increasing premiums by

more than the Social Security COLA. Because Social Security made no COLA adjustments in recent years, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) did not increase premiums for individuals already in the system. This year, however, the 2% SSA COLA will allow CMS to catch up so that individuals who had been paying less than \$134, will be required to pay more. The Part A premium for people who do not have premium-free Part A will rise from \$413/month to \$422/month. Deductibles for hospital care also have increased.

State Government

Governor Brown's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19 was released 1/10/18. In all, the budget proposal assumes a \$6.1 billion windfall of tax revenues in the coming fiscal year and is projected to have a total expenditure level of \$131.7 billion with \$135.1 billion in total projected revenues. Combined with special fund and bond funds, total expenditures are projected to be \$190.3 billion.

Maintaining Fiscal Prudence

The Governor wants lawmakers to commit the bulk of the \$6.1 billion surplus to:

- \$3.5 billion would go to an extra payment into the state's Budget Stabilization Account, also known as the "rainy-day" fund. By law, this account can grow to 10% of general fund revenue, and the Governor's proposed budget would get it to that maximum limit by early summer of 2019.
- \$2.3 billion would be used for costs that arise during the fiscal year, what the budget calls "economic uncertainties." This could include things like responding to natural disasters. Unlike the rainy-day fund, lawmakers have a significant amount of discretion over this money.
- \$134 million would be used to help pay for outdated voting and election equipment in California's 58 counties, though this is only half of the needed funds and the rest would have to be provided by local governments. They are looking into purchasing an electronic voting system.

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

The Governor's budget includes \$29.9 million General Fund to reflect the implementation of 8 paid sick leave hours for IHSS providers beginning July 1, 2018. The budget also includes an increase in IHSS expenditures of \$260.3 million to account for state minimum wage going up from \$11 to \$12 effective January 1, 2019.

Michele Gomez:

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) News - Michele Gomez reported on the electronic timesheets that are now offered for the IHSS program. So far, 78,000 providers statewide have signed up for electronic timesheets, with 958 of them enrolled in Kern County as of November 2017. Some of the benefits of using electronic timesheets is that it helps to eliminate errors, and also allows the providers to get paid faster via direct deposit. Paid sick leave for the providers begins July 1, 2018. A provider can accrue 8 hours of sick leave. The Department is working with the State to come up with a backup provider list. The sick leave accrual is fiscal year to fiscal year (July 1-June 30). The provider must work 100 hours in order to accrue the 8 hours of sick leave. The sick leave accrual will go up to 16 hours/year by 2020. Sick leave accruals will not carry over to the next fiscal year and can only be used within the fiscal year for which it was earned. If a provider quits, they will not receive a reimbursement for the unused sick hours. However, if the provider returns in less than one year, their sick hours will be reinstated. There is no vacation paid leave. Providers can use their sick leave hours for Dr. appointments for themselves, and for their children.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

Each IHSS Advisory Committee Member is required to take an Ethics Training class every two years. Laura has not received the 2018 class schedule. She will let you know when the dates are available and who needs to take the class.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. at Kern County Aging & Adult Services, 5353 Truxtun Avenue, in the Golden Generation Room.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lito Morillo, Secretary

LM/lj