



Lito Morillo – Director
5357 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309
(661) 868-1000; (661) 868-1001 FAX

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

MINUTES

Thursday, March 15, 2018 - 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:

Alex Alva	County Administration Office Representative
Harvey Clowers	Fourth District Consumer
*Aaron Flucker	Commission on Aging
Robin Freeman	Private Industry Representative
Evelyn Lopez	Individual Provider Representative

Excused Absences:

**Nickole Renee Mensch, Second District Consumer Representative

Lito Morillo confirmed a quorum was 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:

Patty Grubbs, Independent Living Center of Kern County
Carol T. Henry, Independent Living Center of Kern County
Elizabeth McKinley, Investigative Aid, Kern County District Attorney's Office
Elizabeth Luckhardt, Kern County District Attorney's Office
Graydon Argast, Lieutenant, Kern County District Attorney's Office

New Members:

None

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2017 – APPROVED.**
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O) –
M/S/A/O – Lopez/Freeman/Clowers/None – Motion carried.
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 18, 2018 – APPROVED.**
M/S/A/O – Clowers/Lopez/None/None – Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- **Appointment Report** - The Committee Appointment report was read. No new appointments. Four member's terms will expire June 30, 2018. Laura Juarez will work on reappointments as the date nears. 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.
- **Ethics Training** - There are two in-person Ethics Training Classes scheduled for 2018, the first is scheduled for April 5, 2018, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and the second is scheduled for August 2, 2018, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Both classes will be held at the Board Chambers, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA. You can also take the class online. Please see instructions provided by Laura Juarez on how to take the class online. Please remember to provide Laura with a copy of your certificate.

STAFF REPORTS:

Lito Morillo reported the following:

Lito Morillo reported new Medicare cards will be issued April 1, 2018. These new cards will have a unique identifier and will no longer have the individual's Social Security number or gender on them. The old Medicare cards will be accepted

until April 1, 2019 to allow time for everyone to receive their card. These new Medicare cards will be mailed throughout the month of April (maybe sooner) and you can destroy your old card as soon as you receive your new card. It's important to keep your Medicare Advantage Plan medical cards (HMO/PPO). Keep in mind there could be scams associated with your new card, so never provide your personal or Medicare card information over the phone to especially incoming callers.

Congress passed their 2-year budget. They are still working on the details as they don't have all of the allocations worked out. Another Continuing Resolution was issued and it's good until March 22, 2018. Federal funding will continue for all of our programs until at least March 22, 2018 as a result of the Continuing Resolution. Some of the highlighted proposed eliminations are the Community Service Block Grants (CSBG), Social Services Block Grants (SSBG), Low Income Heat Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Senior Employment Resources (SER-jobs) program, which helps retrain seniors 55 and older to get back into the work force, and the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP). Again, these are all proposed eliminations.

We are still dealing with the IHSS Maintenance of Effort (MOE). It is affecting every County across the State in terms of how it's paying for its MOE. The State is shifting a lot of the IHSS cost to the Counties. Kern County's MOE for FY 17-18 was \$9.995 million. Because there's cost inflators built in automatically, the MOE to the County will continue to increase. In FY 18-19, the MOE will go up to \$11 million, and in FY 19-20, the MOE will go up to \$12.8 million. In FY 20-21, our MOE is \$14.1 million. This isn't just an IHSS program issue. It's a problem across the board because the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) or Social Service agency will more than likely not have the additional funding to offset the increased costs of the IHSS program. The IHSS caseloads and referrals continue to increase so the Department is trying to look at ways to streamline processes through Lean Six Sigma.

Negotiations are still going on with the County and United Domestic Workers (UDW) regarding IHSS provider wages and benefits. Minimum wage increased to \$11.00 on January 1, 2018. IHSS provider wages also increased to \$11 and will continue to increase \$1 each year up to \$15/hour by the year 2022 to comply with state minimum wage increases. The minimum wage increases will not impact the County's funding since this is a State negotiated wage. However, the cost inflator takes into account these types of rising costs.

The County is still dealing with a \$12.6 million structural deficit. Although the county is in its 3rd year of a 4-year plan to resolve the deficit, issues related to the Fire Fund and pension costs continue to take its toll. For FY 18-19 the Fire Fund has a \$10 million deficit, which is \$1.5 million more than last year.

County Depts. are being asked to take a 2.5% cut to its general fund contribution, and in addition to that cut, prepare a 5% step down plan.

On a positive note, the price of oil is priced at \$63 a barrel which is \$13 more than same time last year. Property tax revenues came in higher helping the Fire Fund reduce its deficit from \$17.5 million to \$10 million.

Michele Gomez:

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) News - Michele Gomez reported there is almost 1,200 Individual Providers (IPs) in Kern County enrolled in the Electronic Time Sheet (ETS), which is about a 20% rate. Statewide, 19% is enrolled in ETS. It is encouraged that all clients and providers elect to enroll in ETS as it is in real time, and also has an error check, which will help to minimize errors being made on time sheets. IPs are being encouraged to enroll in Direct Deposit as it cuts out waiting on mail services and allows IPs to receive their payments faster. On Friday, March 24, 2018, CMIPS II will be down from 7 p.m. through the weekend and all day Monday, March 26, 2018. They will be updating the payroll side of CMIPS II. AASD will work on apps to work around this down time and will be accepting calls so slower service is to be expected during this down time. With the passing of the Self Identification of Gender Identity, Assembly Bill 959, the State will be changing our application form in July 2018 to include some voluntary check boxes on the applications if someone wants to self-identify.

NEW BUSINESS:

Aging and Adult Services is hosting a "Spring Alive" Senior Resource Fair Saturday, April 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at St. John Missionary Baptist Church. This event is being co-sponsored by the Kern County Commission on Aging, and St. John Missionary Baptist Church.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

None.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. at Kern County Aging & Adult Services, 5353 Truxtun Avenue, in the Golden Generation Room.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lito Morillo, Secretary

LM/lj