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

MINUTES

Thursday, November 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 1:48 p.m. by Robin Freeman. 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

Evelyn Lopez

Individual Provider Representative

Excused Absences:

*Aaron Flucker

Commission on Aging

Alex Alva

County Administration Office Representative

Harvey Clowers

Fourth District Consumer

**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:

Elizabeth Luckhardt, Investigator, Kern County District Attorney's Office
Elizabeth McKinley, Investigative Aid, Kern County District Attorney's Office

New Members:

Lito Morillo announced Kaye Davis was appointed by the Kern County Board of Supervisors as an At-Large Care Provider on the IHSS Advisory Committee.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 17, 2018** – This Item was tabled to the January 17, 2019 meeting due to no quorum.
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 2018** – This Item was tabled to the January 17, 2019 meeting due to no quorum.
- **APPROVAL OF 2019 IHSS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE** – This Item was tabled to the January 17, 2019 meeting due to no quorum.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- **Appointment Report** – There was one new appointment to the IHSS Advisory Committee, Kay Davis, who was appointed by the Board of Supervisors as an At-Large Care Provider. Laura Juarez will continue to work on reappointments as the expired term dates near. Vacancies currently exist in Supervisorial Districts 1, 3, and 5 for Consumers, and one vacancy for an At-Large Consumer. There is an active recruitment for this committee. A flyer is posted on the IHSS Advisory Committee website. There is also a link on the website to access an online application to serve on the IHSS Advisory Committee website.

STAFF REPORTS:

Lito Morillo reported the following:

In September 2017, Congress passed the budget that would be good until December 2018. As part of this budget, senior nutrition got a \$10 million funding increase nationwide.

Social Security Administration (SSA) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) announced a 2.8% increase in monthly allotment starting in January 2019. This will impact more than 67 million Americans. The Medicare premiums are expected to increase, but not by much.

The new Delano Senior Center on Jefferson Street is fully operational. The Senior Center on Ellington has been closed by the City of Delano.

Adventist Health is building a new hospital on the corner of Coffee and Brimhall which is set to open in 2024.

The State IHSS Quality Assurance recently did an audit on our IHSS cases. The audit was very favorable. The reviewers commented on how we are a model county in terms of our cases and how we administer the program. As the community learns more about the services available through AASD, IHSS referrals will continue to increase. Lito commended the IHSS Social Workers and staff for their hard work maintaining the increased caseloads, especially while being understaffed.

Minimum wage continues to put a strain on senior nutrition's program budget. In addition, many of our minimum wage staff will be getting \$1 raises each year until January 2022 as a result of minimum wage going up. We have to deal with compaction issues of those staff's supervisors and higher classifications. This will definitely force us to change how we deliver our service.

AASD received additional federal dollars in our California Department on Aging (CDA) programs and we are using it to switch out the county funding we used previously to deal with cuts our providers would have faced via sequestration and cuts over the years. This funding switch will also allow us to help with staffing positions in our California Department of Social Services (CDSS) program which has seen substantial growth in the last 2 years. For example, IHSS has 1,000 more cases than it did last year. Adult Protective Services (APS) receives about 100 more referrals a month than last year. We are looking to add 1 Program Support Supervisor, 3 SSWs in IHSS, and 1 in APS.

Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act/Conservatorship program received additional funding as well. We are looking at adding 1 Supervisor and 2 Social Service Workers.

AASD will implement an electronic check-in process using kiosks iPads effective January 7, 2019. This new electronic check-in process is encouraged, but optional.

Kaye Davis expressed thanks to the Lito, Michele, and the Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP) team. She has been utilizing HICAP staff for two years now and she really appreciates the help and information they provide.

Michele Gomez reported the following:

In 2016, under the 21st Century Cures Act, Federal Law required all states to implement an Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) based system to check in for services being provided in the home. There will be two phases. The first phase is the IHSS and waiver programs. The second phase will be agencies. They will phase this in for IHSS and it should be fully implemented by January 2020. The purpose of EVV is to increase accuracy in quality and personal care services that clients receive. Pilot testing is going on right now in one county. EVV can be done either online, through a web-based system, or through a phone line. Care providers will call in during their start and stop of work day. They will also be required to add a location of where the work was performed (home, community, etc...). The State wants this method to be the least restrictive as possible. Funding could be lost for any states that do not comply with this federal law.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

None.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. at Kern County Aging & Adult Services, 5353 Truxtun Avenue, in the Golden Generation Room.

Meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lito Morillo, Secretary

LM/lj