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

MINUTES

Thursday, January 16, 2020 - 1:30 P.M.

PUBLIC AUTHORITY OFFICE

5357 TRUXTUN AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

BOB FOWLER CONFERENCE ROOM

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Lito Morillo. 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
*Kaye Davis	At-Large Care Provider
Aaron Flucker	Commission on Aging
**Evelyn Lopez	Individual Provider Representative
NickoleRenee Mensch	Second District Consumer Representative

Excused Absences:

Robin Freeman	Private Industry Representative
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QUORUM

Lito Morillo confirmed a quorum was not present.

POSTING OF THE BROWN ACT

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

Aging and Adult Services Staff:

Michele Gomez, Program Manager
Laura Juarez, Sr. Office Services Specialist

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC AND NEW MEMBERS:

Guests:

Elizabeth McKinley, Investigative Aide, Kern County District Attorney's Office
Laura Reyes, United Domestic Worker's Union
Judy Snyder, Kern County Commission on Aging

New Members:

None.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2019** – The minutes were approved as prepared.
M/S/A/O – Clowers/Mensch/None/None – Motion carried.
- **OFFICER ELECTIONS** – A vote was held for the 2019-2020 IHSS Advisory Committee Officer Elections for Chair & Vice-Chair. Per the IHSS Advisory Committee Bylaws, the Director of the Aging and Adult Services Department will serve as Secretary for the Committee. The results of the vote are as follows:
 - Chair, Kaye Davis
 - Vice-Chair, Evelyn Lopez

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- **Appointment Report** – No recent appointments. There was one resignation, Aaron Flucker, who will be replaced by Judy Snyder (appointment is scheduled to go before the Board of Supervisors this week). No expired terms. Appointments soon to expire on June 30, 2020 are NickoleRenee Mensch, Harvey Clowers, Kaye Davis, and Alex Alva. Laura Juarez will prepare the reappointment letters as the term expiration date nears. There are 4 vacancies, Supervisorial Districts 1, 3, and 5, and 1 At-Large Consumer. No new applications were received.

STAFF REPORTS:

Lito Morillo reported the following:

VITA tax preparation will not be available at Aging and Adult Services due to the renovations going on. Kern City is offering free tax preparations in The Community Room at 1003 Pebble Beach Drive, Bakersfield, on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. from February 7, 2020 to April 10, 2020. Call for appointment at 661-246-7452. Free income tax preparation is also available through AARP

Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers at Rasmussen Senior Center, 115 E. Roberts Lane, Bakersfield, on Wednesdays and Thursdays only from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. from February 6, 2020 to April 15, 2020. Call for an appointment 661-246-7452.

The Governor's Budget was released and is proposing:

- New proposals and money to address homelessness - \$1.4 billion to pay monthly rents, build more shelters and provide treatment to those struggling with finding long-term housing;
- \$695 million to boost the state's Medicaid programs to expand services for homeless individuals whose housing struggles are directly linked to health problems;
- More firefighting resources (677 new CalFire positions over five years, \$90 million for new technology and a forecast center to better predict, track and battle blazes. Continuation of a \$200-million annual investment approved by lawmakers to reduce the kinds of vegetation that fuel wildfires, more than \$100 million to fund the Legislature's pilot program to harden homes in fire-prone areas, and \$50 million one-time to help to prepare for power outages);
- \$100 million to cover health care for approximately 25,000 non-citizens over the age of 65; \$80.5 million (\$64.2 million General Fund) for this expansion, including In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) costs.
- \$500 million to harden drinking water facilities, emergency shelters and other types of critical infrastructure to better withstand disasters, "with a focus on low-income areas at significant risk of wildfires,".
- \$4.75 billion "Climate Resiliency Bond"; e.g., \$340 million to support projects to reduce urban flood risks through 2025, \$270 million for flood and restoration efforts, etc.
- Make California for the first state in U.S. to manufacture its own generic drugs in an effort to limit costs.
- \$18 billion in Rainy Day Fund, \$19.4 billion in forecast; over \$21 billion total in reserves.

The additional Senior Nutrition funding that was slated to end in December 2021 got extended to July 1, 2023, which guarantees the additional funding until then. We are hoping to reduce some of our waiting lists with this additional funding which will mean more people on the program and more meals served.

Renovations at the Department are still on going and should be completed by April 2020. We are trying to acquire additional space as the IHSS program continues to grow. We have seen a substantial growth in IHSS cases. We have 8,400 cases now. Last year we had about 7,300 cases. We receive up to 600 IHSS applications each month. We have acquired the Pair & Marotta gymnasium and hoping to move in by March 2020.

The California Welfare Director's Association (CWDA) is proposing to have all Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) under the Human Services umbrella. CWDA proposal is being submitted as a recommendation for Master Plan for Aging. The Governor is wanting this plan in place by October 2020.

We are trying to establish an ADRC (Aging Disability Resource Center) here in Kern. AASD and ILC are working together to make this happen. ADRC's are designed to be one-stops for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Currently, there are 8 counties who already have an ADRC, and 10 counties, including Kern County, who are an emerging ADRC. This has always been a goal of AASD and we have a strong relationship with ILC, which isn't the case with a lot of other counties. The State is encouraging this so all counties build a relationship with their ILC program.

Michele Gomez reported the following:

IHSS Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) is happening across the State. Kern will be up and running in the next wave March/April. EVV is designed to get IHSS providers and clients submitting timesheets online (through a State online portal) or through their phones, rather than mailing it to the State. EVV is federally mandated, and CA must complete by this year to avoid fiscal penalties. EVV will allow clients to track their timesheet, payments. It will eliminate the issues clients and providers have getting the mailed timesheets lost in the mail. It will also expedite processing for them since they don't have to wait for it being delivered. Kern is currently at a 47% adoption rate. Staff will be reaching to offer help with the process. Clients can also come in to the office for assistance (ask for SIP team).

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Officer elections were held for the July 2020 to July 2021 term. Each term is for 1 year with a maximum of 2 continuous terms. Official ballots were passed out for voting and results are as follows:

Chair: 1) Kaye Davis

Vice-Chair: 1) Evelyn Lopez

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

1. A copy of the IHSS Advisory Committee Bylaws was distributed to members to review for possible amendments.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. at Kern County Aging & Adult Services, 5357 Truxtun Avenue, in the Bob Fowler Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lito Morillo, Secretary

LM/lj