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

MINUTES
Thursday, September 17, 2020 - 1:30 P.M.
Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Chair Kaye Davis. 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
Robin Freeman	Private Industry Representative
Gail Lancaster	Third District Consumer Representative
**Evelyn Lopez	Individual Provider Representative
NickoleRenee Mensch	Second District Consumer Representative
Judy Snyder	Commission on Aging

Excused Absences:
None.

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:
Charles Brown, Investigator, Kern County District Attorney's Office
Elizabeth McKinley, Investigative Aide, Kern County District Attorney's Office
Sonya Lopez, United Domestic Worker's Union

New Members:
Gail Lancaster, Third District Consumer Representative
Judy Snyder, Commission on Aging

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 16, 2020** – The minutes were approved as prepared. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O) M/S/A/O – Clowers/Mensch/Snyder, Lancaster, Freeman/None – Motion carried.**

- **2021 IHSS Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule** – The schedule was approved as prepared.
  M/S/A/O – Freeman/Lopez/None/None – Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- **Agenda Packet** – Vice-Chair Lopez requested that the agenda packet only be sent to members via email. Doing so will save on time and money for AASD. All members were in agreement. Laura will only mail an agenda packet if/when requested by the members.

- **Appointment Report –** Harvey Clowers and Kaye Davis were recently reappointed. Their new term expires June 30, 2022. We have 2 new members, Judy Snyder, appointed to represent the Kern County Commission on Aging. Her term expires June 30, 2021, and Gail Lancaster, appointed to represent the Third District. Her term expires June 30, 2021. NickoleRenee Mensch and Alex Alva's terms have expired on June 30, 2020. Laura has sent a letter of reappointment for both. There are no appointments soon to expire and no resignations. There are 3 vacancies, Supervisorial Districts 1, 5, and 1 At-Large Consumer. We received 5 new applications from Llesenia Bonilla, Mona Mansour, Magaly Ortega, Veronica Olguin, and Dehlia Parsons.

STAFF REPORTS:

Michele Gomez reported the following:
They are working on getting all recipients and providers switched over to electronic timesheets. The State is going to discontinue paper timesheets as early as November 2020 or as late as January 2021. Currently, 84% of recipients have enrolled in Electronic Visit Verification (EVV), and 90% of providers have enrolled in EVV. They continue to do outreach to help get everyone on the EVV system. The IHSS Social Workers are handling assessments via telephone and video conferencing throughout the COVID pandemic. If an employee has to do an in-home visit, the employee is wearing proper PPE to ensure their safety, as well as the safety of the client.

Lito Morillo reported the following:
Lito thanked the committee for attending the meeting virtually. This is the first time the IHSS Advisory Committee has met via Zoom and glad we had a great participation.

Because of COVID, AASD is struggling with staffing issues. IHSS Social Workers teleworking and SIP team trying to answer as many calls from providers as possible. We are only seeing clients by appointment only, which you can call to make or set up on line. Thanks given to Sonia Lopez, of United Domestic Workers (UDW) and UDW team for working together during this pandemic.

Kern County is in the most restrictive tier. In order to move to the next least restrictive tier, the County has to increase the number of COVID test it does. As a result, it's encouraging all 8,000+ County employees to get tested between now and 12/31/20. If a County employee gets 6 COVID tests completed by 12/31/20, they will receive 8 hours of vacation.

AASD is starting a new project with the Kern County Library. As part of our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program, we will be delivering books to MOW clients who are older adults that are unable to leave their home.

AASD is also focused on the Digital Divide and getting older adults familiar with various technological devices and internet to obtain information and services. AASD will be piloting a project in Kern for Older Adults who are low-income, isolated, and living alone. This project will include loaning them IPads, providing training, and establishing virtual communities (senior centers) called PODs. Thanks given to Alex Alva for his help with getting approval of the new positions that will allow us to hire Program Technicians who will help with this project. We estimate to start this program in October 2020, and anticipate beginning the trainings in mid to late November 2020. We have limited resources so the individuals with the most need (low-income & isolated) will be the first to receive the one-on-one or small group trainings. Later, training will be available to the masses on a scheduled basis via online classes posted on the AASD web page.

Trainings will be posted on a cycle so that if a training was missed on a particular day, they will have the opportunity to view the training on the next cycle.

The California Department of Aging (CDA) is working on a project with T Mobile that will allow AASD to purchase 2 types of tablets at a discounted rate for older adults.

Kern was awarded $15 million for the HomeKey project, which allows County to renovate hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings to convert them into interim or permanent long-term housing.

NEW BUSINESS:
None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
None.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:
None.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:
The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052 for the link to join the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lito Morillo, Secretary

LM/lj