



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, January 21, 2021 - 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:

*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:

Alex Alva	County Administration Office Representative
Harvey Clowers	Fourth District Consumer

QUORUM

Michele Gomez confirmed a quorum was present.

POSTING OF THE BROWN ACT

Michele Gomez 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, Kern County District Attorney's Office
Maria Felix, Kern County District Attorney's Office
Sonia Massie, United Domestic Workers Union

New Members:

None.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2020** – The minutes were approved. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)**
M/S/A/O - Snyder/Mensch/None/None – Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- **Appointment Report** – Alex Alva was reappointed and his new term will expire June 30, 2022. There are no new appointments. Nickole Renee Mensch's term expired June 30, 2020. Laura is working with District 2 on the reappointment. Appointments soon to expire on June 30, 2021 are Gail Lancaster, Robin Freeman, Evelyn Lopez, and Judy Snyder. Laura will send letters for reappointment as the term date nears. There were no resignations. There are three vacancies, Supervisorial Districts 1 and 5, and 1 At-Large Consumer. We received three new applications from Sabrina Pena, Adriana Aragon, and Deanna Lewis.

STAFF REPORTS:

IHSS REPORT – Michele Gomez

We continue to enroll Recipient and Providers in the Electronic Time Sheet (ETS) using the portal for self-service needs. Kern is at 92% enrolled in ETS.

Letters have been mailed to eligible providers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Instructions were included, along with a link from Public Health of local clinics and pharmacies where they can receive COVID-19 vaccination if they chose, as it is not mandatory.

Letters were also mailed to recipients 65+ years letting them know they are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

We were asked if IHSS providers could use paid sick leave for COVID vaccine purposes. California Department of Social Services (CDSS) provided the following guidance for the county public authorities in response to questions related to the use of paid sick leave for the COVID-19 vaccination:

All-County Letter (ACL) 20-40 (April 14, 2020) provided information regarding the implementation of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) (House Resolution 6201) which provides for two weeks of emergency paid sick leave when a covered employee is unable to work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The FFCRA became effective on April 2, 2020, and initially remained in effect until December 31, 2020. The effective date for the FFCRA was extended until March 31, 2021, as set forth in ACL 21-06 (January 19, 2021).

Full-time employees (those who work 40 or more hours per week) are entitled to up to eighty hours of paid sick leave while part-time employees (those who work less than 40 hours per week) are entitled to the average number of hours that employee worked during the previous two-week period. The emergency paid sick leave may only be claimed if the employee is unable to work for one reasons related to COVID-19 specified in the ACL. The FFCRA does not allow employees to claim emergency paid sick leave hours to obtain a vaccination for COVID-19 or if the employee develops, any side-effect complications related to obtaining the vaccination. If an IHSS provider needs to use paid sick leave for either of these reasons, he/she may use some or all of the sixteen hours of paid sick leave he/she has accrued since July 1, 2020, as set forth in ACL 18-01 (January 9, 2018).

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Michele Gomez (for Lito Morillo)

Federal

President elect Biden is proposing a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package that would provide an additional \$1,400 to those that previously received the \$600 stimulus check. There is talk that it may include college students, which the previous stimulus did not include since it excluded kids in your household over 17 years of age.

Here are some of the other big-ticket items in the plan:

- Increasing federal minimum wage to \$15
- Extending additional unemployment benefit of \$400 through September 2021 (currently set to expire March 2021).
- Extending the eviction and foreclosure moratoriums until end of September 2021
- \$350 billion in state and local government aid.
- \$20 billion toward a national vaccine program
- \$50 billion toward COVID testing
- \$170 billion for K-12 schools and institutions of higher learning

- Making the Child Tax Credit fully refundable for the year and increasing the credit to \$3,000 per child (\$3,600 for a child under 6)

State

Building on existing efforts to address aging in California, including the development of a 10-year Master Plan for Aging and the establishment of a Task Force on Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness, the Governor's budget proposes a range of initiatives and investments, including, developing new strategies with the federal government to leverage Medicare to provide additional long-term services and supports and appointing a Senior Advisor on Aging, Disability and Alzheimer's to advance cross-Cabinet initiatives and partnerships between government, the private sector, and philanthropy. The Budget includes a \$5 million General Fund placeholder for spring proposals to further implement the Master Plan for Aging.

Proposed investments targeting top priorities identified in the Master Plan for Aging include:

- Establishing an Office of Medicare Innovation and Integration to lead innovative models for dual eligibles and Medicare only individuals. The Administration intends to submit a proposal in the spring for state operations to establish a new Office of Medicare Innovation and Integration that will explore strategies and models to strengthen and expand low- and middle-income Californian's access to high-quality services and supports, while developing new partnerships with the federal government.
- \$250 million one-time General Fund for the Department of Social Services to acquire and rehabilitate Adult Residential Facilities (ARF) and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) with a specific focus on preserving and expanding housing for low-income seniors who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. (See also Housing and Homelessness).
- \$7.5 million in 2021-22, half-year funding of \$5 million in 2022-23 to delay the suspension of and expand Aging and Disability Resources Connections (ADRCs), or "No Wrong Door," networks to serve the entire state. The Governor's Proposed 2021-22 Budget includes \$7.5 million in 2021-22 and half-year \$5 million in 2022-23 for the statewide expansion of the State's Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) program, subject to suspension on December 31, 2022 based on available General Fund resources in the 2022 Budget Process. If not suspended, resources are proposed to continue at an ongoing full-year funding level of \$10 million. The ADRC program, also known as "No Wrong Door," which was a key recommendation of both the Master Plan for Aging Stakeholder

Advisory Committee and the Task Force on Alzheimer's. The ADRC program is the State's only coordinated "one stop" telephone and on-line access which enables a single point of entry for older adults and people with disabilities, regardless of age, income, or disability, to navigate their local systems of long-term services and supports. ADRC programs provide warm hand-off information and referral/assistance services, person-centered options counseling, short-term service coordination during times of crisis, and transition services from hospitals to home and from skilled nursing facilities back into the community. There are currently six designated and 10 emerging ADRC programs in the state and this funding will enable the establishment of ADRC programs throughout the State.

- \$5.3 million one-time General Fund in 2021-22 to extend the IHSS back-up provider system and back-up provider wage differential to avoid disruptions to caregiving until December 2021.
- The proposed budget delays the restoration of the seven percent reduction in IHSS hours for recipients for 18 months, and includes \$449.8 million GF in 2021-22 and assumes another \$242.6 million in 2022-23 to reflect this. The reduction was originally scheduled to go into effect in 2020-21 per the 2019 Budget Act agreement, but was delayed as part of the 2020 Budget Act agreement. The seven percent reduction is now proposed to go into effect in December 2022, and will be lifted if the Administration determines at the time that there is sufficient revenue.
- The proposed budget includes \$40.4 million (\$16 million GF in services funding and \$1.2 million (\$624,000 GF) in administration funding in 2020-21 for the expansion of paid sick leave up to an additional 80 hours as enacted under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.
- \$3 million one-time General Fund for the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to grow and diversify the pipeline for the geriatric medicine workforce. The Budget includes \$3 million one-time General Fund for the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to grow and diversify the pipeline for the geriatric medicine workforce, as the increasing and diversifying numbers of older adults living longer lives require developing a larger and more diverse pool of health care workers with experience in geriatric medicine.
- The 2020 Budget Act included \$17.5 million General Fund for the Older Americans Act (OAA) Senior Nutrition program (SNP) that was originally set to suspend on 12/31/21. The suspension date of this funding is proposed to be extended until 12/31/22, which will enable local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to expend the full \$17.5 million in 2021-22. The OAA SNP provides both home-delivered meals and congregate meals at community and senior centers, nutrition education, and nutrition-risk screening to individuals aged 60 or older.

The total baseline funding for OAA SNP is [\$117.8 million (\$26.1 million GF)]. The baseline funding for OAA SNP was able to provide 19,325,463 meals to 222,448 unduplicated participants in 2019-20. With additional federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds, the AAAs were able to provide an additional 2,825,981 meals to older adults in 2019-20.

- Supportive Services and Family Caregiving (\$61.5 million - \$296 thousand GF) Older Americans Act Titles III and VII fund services to enable individuals to access the support necessary for them to remain independent in their communities, continue in their caregiving role, and/or receive long-term care services appropriate to their needs. These programs provide services in the community to adults 60 years of age or older and their family caregivers.
- Information and Assistance and HICAP (\$13.6 million - \$41,000 GF) provides free, confidential one-on-one counseling, education, and assistance to individuals and their families on Medicare, Long-Term Care insurance, and other health insurance related issues, and planning ahead for Long-Term Care needs. HICAP also provides legal assistance or legal referrals in dealing with Medicare or Long-Term Care insurance related needs. In 2019-20, the program served 63,255 older adults.
- The MSSP Multipurpose Senior Services (\$23.6 million - \$21.8 million GF) provides both social and health care coordination services to assist frail individuals aged 65 or older to remain in their own homes and communities. The MSSP serves approximately 11,370 participants a year in 9,232 slots across 38 sites.
- Long-term Care Ombudsman (\$17.4 million - \$9.2 million GF) serves as advocates for residents of long-term care facilities, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman and the local Ombudsman representatives seek resolution of residential facility complaints with the goal of ensuring residents' rights, dignity, quality of care, and quality of life. Statewide, approximately 723 state-certified Ombudsman volunteers and paid local Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program staff identify, investigate, and resolve complaints and concerns in over 1,200 skilled nursing facilities and approximately 7,300 residential care facilities for the elderly.
- Falls Prevention (\$5 million GF from FY 19-20, re-appropriation until 6/30/22). The Dignity at Home Fall Prevention Program was established in FY 2019-2020 with a one-time \$5 million GF appropriation to provide grants to the local AAAs for information and education on injury prevention; referrals to related resources and services; and home environmental assessments and assessments of individual injury prevention needs, including instructions on behavioral, physical and environmental aspects

of injury prevention. The program originally had a sunset date of 9/30/21. The funds are proposed to be reappropriated until 6/30/2022.

Alzheimer's

The Governor's proposal to address Alzheimer's emphasizes communities of color and women, who are disproportionately susceptible to the disease and the primary providers of caregiving. The budget proposes a number of investments to be administered by the Department of Public Health, including:

- \$5 million one-time General Fund for a public education campaign on brain health;
- \$4 million one-time General Fund for new training and certification for caregivers;
- \$2 million one-time General Fund for expanded training in standards of care for health care providers;
- \$2 million one-time General Fund for grants to communities to become dementia-friendly;
- \$4 million one-time General Fund for research to strengthen California's leadership on disparities and equity in Alzheimer's.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ethics Training – We have not received the ethics training schedule for 2021. As soon as it becomes available, Laura will send the dates and will let you know who needs to take the training this year. You can also take the training online anytime at www.ca-ilg.org/abc123compliance. Please remember to provide a copy of your certificate to Laura Juarez.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

None.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052 for the link to join the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.
M/S/A/O – Lopez/Snyder/None/None – Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Lito Morillo, Secretary

LM/lj