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

MINUTES

**Thursday, July 15, 2021 - 1:30 P.M.
Via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 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
*Kaye Davis	At-Large Care Provider
Robin Freeman	Private Industry Representative
Gail Lancaster	Third District Consumer Representative
**Evelyn Lopez	Individual Provider Representative
***Lito Morillo	Aging and Adult Services

Excused Absences:

DeAnna Lewis	At-Large Consumer
NickoleRenee Mensch	Second District Consumer Representative
Judy Snyder	Commission on Aging

QUORUM

Secretary Morillo confirmed a quorum was present.

POSTING OF THE BROWN ACT

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

Aging and Adult Services Staff:

Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC AND NEW MEMBERS:

New Members:

None.

Guests:

Maria Felix, Kern County District Attorney's Office

Mary DeGeare, Kern County District Attorney's Office

Sonia Massie, United Domestic Workers Union

Chair Davis and Secretary Morillo expressed words about Harvey Clowers, who passed away in June. Harvey was a dedicated member of the IHSS Advisory Committee and always brought a wealth of knowledge to the committee. He is greatly missed by all who knew and worked with him.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 20, 2021** – The minutes were approved.
Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)
M/S/A/O – Freeman/Lancaster/None/None – Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- **IHSS Provider Wages** – Evelyn Lopez asked if the IHSS care provider wages are excluded from paying taxes. If the provider cares for someone who lives with them, and if they have a “Live-In Self-Certification Form” on file with Aging and Adult Services, they will be excluded from federal and state taxes; however, taxes will still be withheld for Social Security. If providers have questions about their wages, they can call the SIP team at 661-868-1004.
- **Appointment Report** – Nickole Renee Mensch was reappointed and her new term will expire June 30, 2023. There was one new appointment, DeAnna Lewis. Her term expires June 30, 2023. Appointments soon to expire on June 30, 2021 are Gail Lancaster, Robin Freeman, Evelyn Lopez, and Judy Snyder. Michele Timmerman sent letters for reappointment. There were no resignations. There are two vacancies, Supervisorial Districts 1 and 5. We did not receive any new applications.

STAFF REPORTS:
DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo

State Budget

Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) [\$7.5 million GF in 2021-22; half-year \$5 million GF in 2022-23] The Governor's Proposed 2021-22 Budget includes \$7.5 million in 2021-22 and half-year funding of \$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 Governor's 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.

Alzheimer's [\$17 million GF one-time] The Budget proposes a comprehensive and coordinated approach to Alzheimer's with an emphasis on communities of color and women, who are disproportionately susceptible to the disease and the primary providers of caregiving. Investments to be administered by the Department of Public Health are five-pronged: \$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; and \$4 million one-time General Fund for research to strengthen California's leadership on disparities and equity in Alzheimer's.

Senior Nutrition [\$17.5 million GF annually, extended until 12/31/22] 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 12/31/2022 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 and congregate meals at community and senior centers, nutrition education, and nutrition-risk screening to individuals aged 60 or older.

Falls Prevention (\$5 million GF from FY 19-20, reappropriation until 06/30/2022) The Dignity at Home Fall Prevention Program was established in 2019-20 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 06/30/21. The funds are proposed to be reappropriated until 06/30/2022.

- The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) provided \$25 million for the OAA Senior Nutrition programs.

- The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided \$50 million for OAA Senior Nutrition programs, \$31 million for Supportive Services and Family Caregiving, \$3 million for ADRC programs, and \$2 million for Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs.

- The latest stimulus funding in the Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Budget (H.R.133 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021) includes a total of \$168 million for Senior Nutrition Programs, and \$100 million for Elder Justice funds, including Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs, for all states. CDA is awaiting the allocation amounts for these programs from the federal Administration for Community Living and will share California's allocation amounts once it receives them.

IHSS COVID-19 Back-Up Provider System [\$5.3 million GF one-time] The Budget includes \$5.3 million one-time General Fund in 2021-22 to extend the back-up provider wage differential to avoid disruptions to caregiving until December-2021. The Administration will evaluate the need of an IHSS provider back-up system for severely impaired individuals as the state recovers from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

IHSS 7% hours cut language has been removed, which means the threat of all IHSS recipients getting hours cut by 7% across the board is no longer a continued budget item going forward.

This month (July 2020), Kern is implementing a system called NorthStar that is designed to streamline work processes for the Social Worker, in an effort to process cases faster.

The County will be finalizing its budget for FY 21-22 on 7/27 (Tuesday) at 9am BOS Chambers. There is a budget hearing on the evening of July 26, 2021 (Monday).

All the senior centers in Kern are open now 5 days a week, with some offering activities like dancing and classes. We previously were closed due to the pandemic. We have scheduled vaccine clinics with Ridgecrest, Rasmussen, and BSC, but no one has signed up. There's not a lot of interest.

All the staff are back in the office starting today 7/19/21, no more telework schedules as of today.

Lastly we are looking at our Cooling Center operations to possibly change temperature thresholds and how notification, particularly for the weekend, for the activation of our Cooling Centers are handled.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ethics Training – The next Ethics training is scheduled for June 4, 2021 via Microsoft Teams. County Counsel is hoping to have an in person training in the near future. 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:

- We will begin holding hybrid meetings for this committee beginning in September. Committee members who wish to attend in person can do so, and for those who prefer to meet virtually, will still have the option to attend via Zoom. Please let Laura Juarez know whether you will be meeting in-person or virtually.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2021, at 1:30 p.m., at Aging and Adult Services, 5357 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93309, and via Zoom. Contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052 for the link to join via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

M/S/A/O – Lancaster/Lopez/None/None – Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Lito Morillo, Secretary

LM/lj