



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 20, 2022 - 1:30 P.M.

Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 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
Gail Lancaster	Third District Consumer Representative
DeAnna Lewis	At-Large Consumer
***Lito Morillo	Aging and Adult Services
Judy Snyder	Commission on Aging

Excused Absences:

Robin Freeman	Private Industry Representative
**Evelyn Lopez	Individual Provider Representative
Nickole Renee Mensch	Second District Consumer Representative

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:

Michele Gomez, Program Manager
Laura Juarez, Senior Office Services Specialist

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC AND NEW MEMBERS:

New Members:

None.

Guests:

Sonia Massie, United Domestic Workers Union

Mario Parada, United Domestic Workers Union

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR November 18, 2021** – The minutes were approved as prepared. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O) M/S/A/O – Snyder/Alva/Lancaster, Lewis/None – Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- **Appointment Report** – There were no new appointments, no expired appointments, no appointments soon to expire, and no resignations. There is one vacancy in District 1, one in District 4, and one in District 5. We did not receive any new applications.

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo

Lito Morillo reported the following:

- The Governor released his proposed budget on January 13, 2022. The State has an estimated \$45.7 billion surplus, with about \$29 billion of that being discretionary that can be allocated to other programs as the Governor and Legislature agrees to.

The following is budget highlights that potentially affects In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and AASD as a whole:

- The Governor proposes expanding full-scope Medi-Cal coverage regardless of immigration status for those aged 26 to 49, who had represented the last uncovered age group of undocumented immigrants in California. The estimated cost is \$819.3 million (\$613.5 million General Fund) for half of 2023-24 and \$2.7 billion (\$2.2 billion General Fund) annually at full implementation, inclusive of IHSS costs. Coverage will begin no sooner than January 1, 2024. This adds to the previous bill the Governor signed which beginning May 1, 2022, allows for Californians 50

and older to be eligible for Medi-Cal full scope coverage regardless of immigration status.

- Also, as part of California's budget for FY 21-22, the Medi-Cal asset test will be phased out completely by January 1, 2024. As of July 1, 2022, the State will raise the asset limit in the Medi-Cal program serving older adults and people with disabilities to \$130,000 (previously \$2,000) for an individual and \$65,000 for each additional household member, which should allow more people to qualify immediately.
- Aging Programs the Governor's January budget includes investments to continue forward with the implementation of the Master Plan for Aging. There is a proposed investment of \$2.1 million to enhance the state's data dashboard to improve outcomes for statewide Master Plan initiatives. The January budget also includes a proposal for a new position at the California Department of Aging to coordinate with county Public Conservators on best practices for serving people with probate conservatorships. In addition, there is \$10 million proposed for the Alzheimer's Healthy Brain Initiative to support activities to address dementia. This funding would be used to support the existing six local health jurisdictions and for an expansion of up to an additional six local health jurisdictions.
- Regarding IHSS program FY 2022-23, the Governor's January budget proposal includes \$18.5 billion for IHSS, of which \$6.5 billion is from the General Fund. These costs also reflect \$399 million General Fund in 2022-23 for the state minimum wage increases. The budget proposal estimates that average monthly caseloads will be 599,000 recipients in 2022-23. In FY 2022-23, the Governor's January budget proposal includes the establishment of a permanent IHSS backup provider system. There is \$24.8 million (\$11.2 million General Fund) included for this system that would allow recipients to get services from a back-up provider in case of immediate needs or emergencies.
- In recognition of the IHSS care service provided during the COVID-19 pandemic, the one-time Care Economy Payment of \$500 dollars, approved by the State of California, will be sent to each current IHSS provider who provided service to IHSS or recipient(s) for a minimum of two months between March 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021. On January 21, 2022, the one-time Care Economy Payments will be sent to the IHSS care providers who meet the payment eligibility criteria.

Following are key points of information regarding the payments to assist counties with responding to Care Economy Payments related inquiries.

- To receive payment, must be currently working as an IHSS or Waiver Personal Care Services (WPCS) provider and provided services for an IHSS or WPCS recipient for a minimum of two months between March 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.
- Only one \$500 payment will be sent to an eligible IHSS provider regardless of the number of recipients they provide with IHSS or WPCS services.
- Payments will be sent to qualifying IHSS providers beginning January 21, 2022.
- Payment will be sent as Electronic Funds transfer (EFT) to IHSS providers who currently use Direct Deposit. Providers with multiple recipients who receive both EFT and paper warrant payments will receive this Care Economy Payment through EFT. All other providers will receive a paper warrant. Providers should cash the paper warrant.
- Adult Protective Services (APS) statewide is changing its age eligibility criteria from 65, older to 60, and older. So the new criteria for doing APS investigations and/or providing services is if you are a dependent adults between 18-60, or 60 years or older. Because of this change, the State is providing additional funding to APS, and for Kern we are expected to receive about \$2.1 million over the next 3 years.
- COVID is affecting the entire Department and most staff are all still under a hybrid telework schedule in an effort to limit exposures. For our senior centers, we've had to close a couple (Prado and Rosamond) as a result of COVID exposure amongst staff and staff shortages in general.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Officer Nominations – Please submit your Officer nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair to Laura Juarez via email for Elections in March.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

Ethics Training – If you missed the November 4, 2021 Ethics training via Microsoft Teams by County Counsel, you can take the training online anytime at www.cq-ilg.org/abc123compliance. Please remember to provide a copy of your certificate to Laura Juarez.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2022, at 1:30 p.m., via Zoom. Contact Laura Juarez at 661-868-1052 for the link to join via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo, Secretary

LM/lj