



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, March 17, 2022 - 1:30 P.M.

Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 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
DeAnna Lewis	At-Large Consumer
***Lito Morillo	Aging and Adult Services
Judy Snyder	Commission on Aging

Excused Absences:

**Evelyn Lopez	Individual Provider Representative
Nickole Renee Mensch	Second District Consumer Representative

QUORUM

Secretary Morillo confirmed a quorum was present.

Aging and Adult Services Staff:

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

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC AND NEW MEMBERS:

None.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 20, 2022** – The minutes were approved as prepared. **Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O) M/S/A/O – Snyder/Alva/Freeman/None – Motion carried.**
- **APPROVAL OF OFFICER ELECTIONS** – The slate of officers was presented to the Committee. The nominees for Chair and Vice-Chair are as follows:
 - Chair: Kaye Davis
 - Vice-Chair: Gail Lancaster

The two candidates ran opposed; therefore, a vote was not necessary and a motion was made to accept the nominees as the new Officers for the 2022-2023 IHSS Advisory Committee.

Motion/Second/Abstained/Opposed (M/S/A/O)

M/S/A/O – Freeman/Snyder/None/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 are 3 Consumer vacancies:
 - 1 in Supervisorial District 1
 - 1 in Supervisorial District 4
 - 1 in Supervisorial District 5

STAFF REPORTS:

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Lito Morillo

IHSS Report - Michele Gomez:

Michele Gomez reported they are working on their productivity standards and goals so the County can align with the State in how they are monitoring us. Throughout the pandemic and years prior, they have always had staff complete 25 cases per month. They are now trying to align it to more of a case management system and will go to a 90% compliance because that is what the State holds them accountable for processing intakes and completing reassessments. As of January 2022, we have 10,164 IHSS authorized cases. Kern County has a 92.8% compliance with the processing of their intakes, and 91% compliance with processing their reassessments.

Lito gave kudos to Michele and her team for all their work on establishing these new standards so that Kern is more aligned with the State's goals. Our annual growth is about 1,000 cases, which would be an average of 240 cases per caseload, sometimes it's higher. This growth has maintained for the last 3 years. If we have an influx of 1,000 cases per year, we would need at least 4-5 caseworkers every year to keep up with that growth. We are allocated a certain dollar amount from the County Administrative Office (CAO) so we can't just hire staff as cases increase. Lito thanked Alex Alva for being very accommodating to our Department in terms of understanding what our staffing needs are. We have asked for positions to help us along to ensure the gap in cases and staff doesn't widen too much. If we didn't have the support of the CAO's office, as well as getting additional funds from the State, that gap would be much wider than it is now.

Director's Report - Lito Morillo:

CARE (Community Assistance Recovery & Empowerment) Court

1. The CARE Court will be a new court in each county (no provision to Opt-out) which will accept petitions requesting an evaluation order be issued for any individual for whom the petitioner believes needs mental health treatment and isn't getting it.
 - a. There are many entities who can file the petition:
 - i. Family members
 - ii. Clinicians (physicians/therapist, etc.
 - iii. First Responders
 - iv. PG/PCs
 - v. Behavioral Health
2. The Care Court will order an "independent evaluation" of the client. It is not yet known who would be responsible for developing this evaluation system, including who pays for it.
3. If the client meets criteria (which has not been established yet), for the program they will be assigned a "Supportive Decision-Making Supporter". The "Supportive Decision-Making Supporter" will help the client create a Mental Health Advanced Directive and help with monitoring the client's progress with the program.
4. Who these Supporters are or where they will come from is not known.
5. Who will coordinate, supervise and train these "Supporters" is not yet known. There will be funding for this new function within the system. How much is not known. The suggestion was made that PG/PCs be responsible for the training, but I let the group know that our members don't engage in Support Decision-Making (as a whole) and so we would not have the expertise to do the training.

6. The Care Court will order a care plan be created with the client's participation. It wasn't clear who would be responsible for creating and monitoring the care plan, but it could be Behavioral Health and Recovery Services.
7. The goal of the client's participation in Care Court is to avoid Conservatorship, avoid locked placements and to provide "stabilizing medication" (verses crisis medication), housing and voluntary mental health treatment to help the client live well in the community.
8. The client will have a court hearing 60 days after entering the program and then every 180 days. The program is for 12 months with an option to renew for an additional 12 months.
9. If the client doesn't succeed, the consequence will most likely be a 5150 and conservatorship.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

Lito reported the IHSS Advisory Committee is a required committee mandated by Assembly Bill 1682. The Kern County Board of Supervisors established this committee; therefore, your attendance to the meetings is very much needed and appreciated. Please remember to communicate with Laura Juarez regarding whether or not you will be attending the meetings. This is especially important when trying to determine if a quorum will be established to take action on any items.

Lito reminded the committee that Ethics Training is required every two years. The next training offered by County Counsel is scheduled for April 21, 2022 at 3 p.m. via Microsoft TEAMS. You can also take the training anytime online at www.ca-ilg.org/abc123compliance. Please remember to provide Laura Juarez with a copy of your certificate.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for May 19, 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 2:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lito Morillo, Secretary

LM/lj