



**Jeremy Oliver – Interim Director**  
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**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TO THE KERN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 19, 2022 - 1:30 P.M.  
Via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 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      |
| ***Jeremy Oliver | Aging and Adult Services                    |
| Judy Snyder      | Commission on Aging                         |

**Excused Absences:**

|                     |                                         |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Robin Freeman       | Private Industry Representative         |
| DeAnna Lewis        | At-Large Consumer                       |
| **Evelyn Lopez      | Individual Provider Representative      |
| NickoleRenee Mensch | Second District Consumer Representative |

**QUORUM**

Secretary Oliver announced a quorum was not present.

**Aging and Adult Services Staff:**

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

**INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC AND NEW MEMBERS:**

1. Jeremy Oliver, Interim Director for Aging and Adult Services, replacing Lito Morillo.
2. Eric Nisbett, County Administration Office Representative, replacing Alex Alva.

**Guests:**

Elizabeth McKinley – District Attorney's Office  
Mario Parada, United Domestic Workers Union

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH 17, 2022** – The minutes were not approved due to no quorum. Tabled to July's meeting.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

None.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:**

- **Appointment Report** – Jeremy Oliver

**Reappointments:** None.

**New appointments:** Eric Nisbett (replacing Alex Alva), and Jeremy Oliver (replacing Lito Morillo).

**Expired appointments:** None.

**Appointments soon to expire:** Nickole Renee Mensch (June 30, 2022), and Kaye Davis (June 30, 2022). Laura will send reappointment letters to appointing agencies.

**Resignations:** None.

**Vacancies:** There are 3 Consumer vacancies:

- 1 in Supervisorial District 1
- 1 in Supervisorial District 4
- 1 in Supervisorial District 5

**New applications:** None.

**AGING AND ADULT SERVICES STAFF REPORTS:****IHSS Report - Michele Gomez:**

Michele Gomez reported they have 10,416 clients on services with a 94% compliance rate on Intakes, which means they processed 94% of applications within 90 days. They are within range at 90% compliance with recertifications. They receive about 700 new applications each month, and each caseload has an average of 215 cases. They receive approximately 10-15 new Intakes each month. Having over 10,000 cases means Kern is now considered a larger county, which means more work and regulations on the QA side of the State's

regulations. Being considered a large county does not mean we will receive more funding. Supervisors do receive calls with concerns about understaffing but the lead workers will assume the responsibility for staff who are out on a leave of absence.

## **Interim Director's Report – Jeremy Oliver:**

### **FEDERAL**

Biden Administration announced new initiatives to implement the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and bring free access to high-speed internet to more low-income households. The ACP, enacted as part of the Infrastructure and Jobs Act, provides people with limited income up to a \$30 discount on their internet bill (\$75 for households on Tribal lands) and up to \$100 off the purchase of a computer or tablet. The Administration has recently reached agreements with internet service providers serving more than 80% of the country to make high-speed plans available at no cost to people using their ACP benefit.

Senate bill to increase asset limits for SSI from \$2,000/person to \$10,000/person and appears to have bipartisan support.

### **STATE**

Governor Newsom unveiled his May Revise plan, which will still require approval by June 15, deadline of state legislature, to meet July 1 budget, included in his proposed budget release:

January minimum wage increase to \$15.50/hour.

\$400 rebate per registered vehicle capped at two cars a person (max of \$800/person).

\$750 million to encourage public transit agencies to offer 3 months of free rides.

Seeks to lower Insulin costs for Californians through investment in manufacturing and low-cost biosimilar insulin.

Funds CARE Courts, which are an effort to engage persons with severe mental illness and homelessness. \$10 million General Fund ongoing to the Department of Aging for the CARE Court Supporter Program to help the participant understand, consider, and communicate decisions by providing the tools to make self-directed choices to the greatest extent possible.

Allocates Opioid settlement funds to address the ongoing Opioid Crisis.

\$36.3 million General Fund in 2022-23 and ongoing funding to continue the implementation of the Master Plan for Aging. The May Revision proposes investments in the following programs to further support home and community living:

- Community Living Fund—\$10 million one-time General Fund available for three years for the Community Living Fund, administered by the Department of Rehabilitation, which will assist non-Medi-Cal eligible older adults and persons with disabilities, including older adults, in transitioning from nursing homes to independent living.
- Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Infrastructure Planning and Development—\$4 million one-time General Fund to develop a statewide roadmap for the Department of Aging, in partnership with the Department of Health Care Services, and to support the development of home and community-based services for individuals regardless of income in underserved areas.
- Caregiver Resource Centers—The May Revision transfers \$14.9 million ongoing General Fund and oversight of California's Caregiver Resource Center program from the Department of Health Care Services to the Department of Aging and includes an additional \$545,000 ongoing General Fund for statewide training and technical assistance. California's 11 Caregiver Resource Centers provide critical services to family caregivers including counseling, training, care planning, and respite.
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman Outreach Campaign—\$3.5 million one-time General Fund to support a Long-Term Care Ombudsman outreach campaign to raise awareness of the resources available to residents and families in skilled nursing, assisted living, and other residential facilities.
- Aging and Disability Institute of Learning and Innovation—\$682,000 ongoing General Fund to establish the Aging and Disability Institute of Learning and Innovation (Institute), which will develop a comprehensive adult learning management system to support local network leaders, home and community care providers, volunteers, and the Long Term Care Ombudsman. The Institute will create a platform to develop content and improve training to further quality, efficiency, and access to services for older adults.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response—\$400,000 ongoing General Fund to develop strategies, tools, and resources to help older adults, individuals with disabilities, family caregivers, and local partners prepare for and respond to state emergencies and natural disasters.

\$19 billion (\$6.5 billion General Fund) for the IHSS program in 2022-23. Average monthly caseload in this program is estimated to be 601,000 recipients in 2022-23. IHSS Permanent Back-up Provider System—\$34.4 million (\$15.4 million General Fund) ongoing to establish a permanent back-up provider system for IHSS recipients to avoid disruptions to caregiving due to an immediate need or emergency. Implementation to occur in October.

Homeless funding continues and expands including 92.5 Million to Home Safe Program, which is administered by APS program to prevent and reduce homelessness.

Implements the SMARTER Plan in response to the ongoing COVID Pandemic, which includes testing, monitoring, vaccines, and medication.

### **Locally**

Older Americans Month Proclamation issued by the Board of Supervisors for the month of May theme is “Age My Way”. June is Elder Abuse Awareness month and the Elder Abuse Prevention Conference is scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

### **OPERATIONAL ISSUES:**

Jeremy reminded the committee that Ethics Training is required every two years. If you missed the training offered by County Counsel on April 21, 2022, you can take the training anytime online at [www.ca-ilg.org/abc123compliance](http://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 July 21, 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 2:01 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Oliver, Secretary

JO/lj