

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
IHSS PUBLIC AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Conference Call
March 18, 2021**

This IHSS Public Authority Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Laticia Sanchez, Chairperson; Larry Stevens, Vice Chairperson; Denise Dorsey, Committee Member; Sally Howarth, Committee Member; Danette Paskaly, Committee Member

Community Members Present: None

Staff Present: David Madrigal, PA Program Manager; Angela Branstner, PA Supervisor

Committee Members Excused: None

Committee Members Unexcused: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At this time the committee members reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting held on January 21, 2021. Committee Member Denise Dorsey pointed out an error in the final paragraph of the minutes, a word was missing from a sentence. David Madrigal said he will correct this. Chairperson Laticia Sanchez made a motion to approve these minutes with the correction. Committee Member Denise Dorsey seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried to approve the minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

David Madrigal informed the group that the Public Authority's only current available staff is Angela Branstner, who is supervisor for the Public Authority half-time. Shirley Camarillo is still out of the office and the previous extra help office assistant position has expired. Interviews will be held on March 26, 2021, to hire a new full-time office assistant. Chairperson Laticia Sanchez offered her help wherever possible.

Committee Member Sally Howarth mentioned that some consumers are having trouble obtaining a referral list lately, and are having to go without a provider. Chairperson Laticia Sanchez added that there is a shortage of quality registry providers as well. David Madrigal stated that this is an agenda item and will be discussed shortly.

DISCUSSION

COVID Vaccines:

David Madrigal said the Tehama County Health Services Agency has a new portal for the COVID-19 vaccine. David Madrigal also informed that IHSS consumers who are not elderly became eligible for the vaccine starting March 15, 2021. Providers can be reimbursed for taking a consumer to get the vaccine for up to 2 hours per vaccine, as long as it does not put the consumer's monthly authorized hours over the maximum of 283. Paperwork for this reimbursement will be mailed to all consumers. Committee Member Sally Howarth asked if this can be retroactively reimbursed for consumers who have already been taken to receive the vaccine, and David answered it can cover this back until January 1, 2021. Vice Chairperson Larry Stevens asked if consumers will be able to see if providers from the referral lists have been vaccinated or not. David Madrigal replied he will have to look into what the state guidance is regarding that matter, and email the information to the group as soon as he finds out. Vice Chairperson Larry Stevens asked if the Public Authority still had gloves and masks available, and David Madrigal answered yes, and if the supply runs low more can be ordered from the State. Chairperson Laticia Sanchez said she would like to reach out to the Public Health Department about obtaining more single-dose COVID-19 vaccines for elderly consumers who may have trouble going out to get vaccinated.

Provider Interviews:

Vice Chairperson Larry Stevens shared his personal experience with prospective providers failing to show up to interview, and also gave suggestions with targeting college students for the provider registry. Committee Member Sally Howarth added that being a provider would be flexible for other groups such as parents of young children. Chairperson Laticia Sanchez said that perhaps different flyers can be created to appeal to different groups of people. David agreed to taking ideas for flyers, but asked that they be made for the general population as it might not be appropriate to tailor them so that only specific groups of people are targeted.

Committee Vacancies:

David Madrigal reminded the group that there is one vacancy in this committee for a consumer position.

Public Authority Report:

Angela Branstner reported that at the end of February there were 1,115 active providers in Tehama County total, and 65 of those are registry providers. Angela Branstner said that many referral lists are now only generating duplicated providers to refer. In January 54 providers attended orientation, and in February 24 providers attended orientation. Out of those incoming providers, 8 were added to the registry.

Vice Chairperson Larry Stevens shared a personal experience with a registry provider who came to work for him under the influence, and wanted to know how to prevent providers with such issues to be referred on the registry. Angela Branstner replied that if the behavior is reported to the Public Authority, those providers can be removed from the registry.

Chairperson Laticia Sanchez said many providers are finding that state taxes are not being withheld from their paychecks, and she recommended the DE-4 be included with the W-4. Angela Branstner said this can be done.

Vice Chairperson Larry Stevens brought up the idea of setting up a volunteer-manned space at the Tehama District Fair to talk about IHSS and the registry. David Madrigal approved as long as arrangements for that can be made in time, since the fair will take place at the end of April and beginning of May.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to vote on at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

At the next meeting, updates will be given regarding today's conversation topics, including state guidance on releasing providers' COVID-19 vaccination information, the provider registry brochure, and having a space at the Tehama District Fair.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m. The next meeting will be held on May 20, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. by conference call.

Respectfully submitted, Sheila Mickelson, PA Office Assistant.