Minutes for Regular Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2024 | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The purpose of the IHSS Advisory Board is to offer advice and make recommendations to improve the quality of services delivered to recipients of Humboldt County’s IHSS Program.

Members:  * = Present (or represented)

Staff: Ryan Bishop, Social Services Deputy Branch Director*, Keri Schrock, IHSS Program Manager*; Connie Beck, Director of DHHS; Jack Breazeal, Deputy Director of Adult Mental Health

Guests: Ashley Shively, Social Worker Supervisor II*, Danielle Sherwood, Staff Services Analyst II*, Mary Hubert, Social Worker I*, Annette Van Elzen, Office Assistant

Call to Order and Introductions: Chairman, Margaret Lewis, called meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

Adjustments to Agenda: None at this time.

Discussion Items:

a) A1AA:
   - A1AA was able to present this month. They gave us a brief overview of their programs and services provided, which include:
     1. Long term care advocacy for people needing to file a complaint.
     2. HICAP, helping clients sign up for health insurance, keep track of when it’s time for them to renew, explain finances and plan differences to them, etc.; can’t help people enroll in Medi-Cal, however.
     3. Help fund legal services, nutrition, family caregivers, and exercise programs.

b) Officer Appointment:
   - Margaret was nominated as Chair; unanimously voted to approve.
   - Vivian was nominated as Vice Chair; unanimously voted to approve.

c) Virtual Newsletter/Website:
   - Not all needed pictures were received; other updates were completed, including:
     1. Adding link to online applications
     2. Uploading recent Minutes and Agenda
     3. Listing upcoming meeting dates

d) IHSS Facebook:
   - Gmail and Facebook page were set up, but a recovery number and recovery email were still needed for the account.
   - The page still needs pictures and to have links to similar services/websites, and to the IHSS website.
For now, Alissa’s number and email will be used for the recovery account.

e) Final Bylaw Review:
- Now reflects stipend for members; “members who attend regular meetings will receive a stipend”
- Unanimously voted to approve.

Committee Reports:

a) Budget:
- Travel reimbursements for January
- $4,571.32 remaining in the budget
- Ryan will check with fiscal to officiate how much the stipend will be and how it will be distributed

b) Membership:
- Claudia Cranford and Corbett Petersen have been approved for the board and will be presented to the BOS.
- No new applications since Claudia and Corbett.

c) Service Enhancement Activities (SEA):
- Nothing to report.

Public Input: Public comment on agenda items may be submitted via email to Jessica Thrasher, ihsspublicauthority@co.humboldt.ca.us. Please submit only one comment per agenda item and only one general public comment. Pursuant to the Brown Act, the IHSS AB may not take any action on an item that does not appear on the agenda.
- Two people came into the meeting at Tydd St, possible residents of Silvercrest.
  - One asked about care providers’ hours and holiday pay; Sarah clarified that they don’t receive regular holiday pay.
  - Second person asked about call-backs from IHSS and difficulty getting someone on the phone; Keri suggested calling and asking to speak directly to a manager/supervisor.

Board Member Reports/Comments:
- Margaret brought up Assembly Bill 817, which could provide autonomy to meet virtually. She wrote a letter to Senator McGuire and Assemblymember Jim Wood voicing her support for the bill.

IHSS Program Updates:
- The following was reported for November/December 2023:
  - 180 caregivers on the registry
  - 10 new caregivers
  - 76 caregivers accepting new clients
  - 1,300 inquiries to clerical about IHSS enrollment and payment
  - 57 applications received
- A full-time analyst has been chosen for IHSS.
- $50,000 was given for access to the tech grant.
- A raffle was done in November for Care Provider Appreciation Month; $50 Visa gift cards provided to the winners.
- Staff have begun quarterly calls for all active providers to update their information/care provider status.
• Registration efforts started in Redway; currently, we are waiting for livescans to arrive for southern and rural Humboldt County.

Public Authority & CAPA Report:
• Ryan reported the following:
  o There was a presentation about 24 hour homecare hoping to fill gaps for when people have maxed out their hours or not started IHSS yet.
  o CalAIM was discussed.
  o An expansion in the eligibility for Medi-Cal could result in more IHSS clients. Medi-Cal is no longer counting assets and non-citizens who are 26-49 are now eligible.
  o There are possible updates to C-Mets, CalSavers retirement savings; auto-deductions or automatic transfers may become possible.

CICA Update:
• Vivian and Margaret are coordinating with Butte County for the conference of Northern California counties that do not have IHSS Advisory Boards. The proposed meeting date is April 9, 2024.

ACTION Items:
  a) Minutes: November Minutes approved unanimously.
  b) Expenses: None to approve at this time.

Standing agenda item (Connie Beck, Director, Dept. of Health and Human Services; Jack Breazeal, Deputy Director of Adult Behavioral Health): None at this time.

Action Recap:
  a) Nothing at the moment.

Agenda development for the Next Regular Meeting: Nothing at the moment.

Adjourn: 3:40 p.m.

cc: Governing Board of IHSS Public Authority
cc: Connie Beck, Director, DHHS
cc: Ryan Bishop, Interim Public Authority on IHSS
cc: Clerk of the Board (Please post)