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**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE KERN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

MINUTES

Thursday, September 21, 2017 - 1:30 P.M.
PUBLIC AUTHORITY OFFICE
5357 TRUXTUN AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
GOLDEN GENERATION CONFERENCE ROOM

The meeting was called to order at 1:39 p.m. by Chair Flucker. 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
*Aaron Flucker	Commission on Aging
Evelyn Lopez	Individual Provider Representative
Robin Freeman	Private Industry Representative

Excused Absences:

Harvey Clowers, Fourth District Consumer
**NickoleRenee Mensch, Second District Consumer Representative

Lito Morillo confirmed a quorum was not present.

Lito Morillo confirmed the agenda had been posted per provisions of the Brown Act.

Aging and Adult Services Staff:

Michele Gomez, Program Director
Laura Juarez, Sr. Office Services Specialist

Guests:

Kaye Davis, St. John Manor
Elizabeth McKinley, Kern County District Attorney's Office
Elizabeth Luckhardt, Kern County District Attorney's Office

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC AND NEW MEMBERS:

Elizabeth Luckhardt introduced Elizabeth (Liz) McKinley as the new Investigative Aide assigned to IHSS.

New Member:

None

ACTION ITEMS:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY 20, 2017:**

The minutes for July 20, 2017 were approved as prepared.

M/S/A/O – Lopez/Alva/None/None – Motion carried.

- **APPROVAL OF 2018 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE:**

The meeting schedule for the 2018 IHSS Advisory Committee Meeting was approved with the following amendment:

1. On the header of the schedule, add “every other” and remove “the” to reflect the IHSS Advisory Committee meetings will take place the “3rd Thursday of every other month”

M/S/A/O – Lopez/Freeman/None/None – Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:

- The Committee Appointment report was read. Robin Freeman was recently reappointed by Around the Clock Care. Robin's new term will expire June 30, 2019. Evelyn Lopez was reappointed as an At-Large Care Provider by the Board of Supervisors. Evelyn's new term will expire on June 30, 2019. Vacancies currently exist in Supervisorial Districts 1, 3, and 5 for Consumers, and one vacancy for an At-Large Consumer. There is also one vacancy for an At-Large Care Provider. No applications have been received.

STAFF REPORTS:

Michele Gomez:

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) News - Electronic Time (E-Time) Sheets went live August 7, 2017 in Kern County. The second wave will begin September 6, 2017 and 18 counties in California will be enrolled. Statewide, 21% of clients and providers have chosen to enroll in E-Time. In Kern County, 44 people have enrolled so far, 22 recipients, and 22 consumers. The online system comes with an automatic checks and balance that will help eliminate errors and violations. An important thing to keep in mind is that this is totally optional for the IHSS provider and client. If they want to continue to complete handwritten time sheets and mail it, they can still do so. One person is on their 3rd violation, and one person is on their 4th violation.

Lito Morillo:

Federal News - As part of the relief effort for Hurricane Harvey, the House passed a spending bill for FY 18 that approved funding for Older Americans Act through mid-December 2017. This is helpful because the funding for one of our main programs, Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP), was slated to be eliminated. Pushing the discussion to December allows for the House and Senate to rethink its position on preserving the HICAP program, which is an essential piece to us assisting those needing Medicare counseling. New Medicare cards will be issued to beneficiaries in April of 2018. A special note about the new cards is the fact that it will no longer have beneficiary's social security numbers on them. Each beneficiary will be assigned a unique id number that everyone, including medical providers, will use.

State News - The In-Home Supportive Services' (IHSS) Maintenance of Effort (MOE) is still the main topic for counties throughout the state. The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the State have come to an agreement on what the MOE will be for each county. For Kern it's not as bad as initially thought the first year, but in subsequent years, it will impact our funding for sure. The primary reason why it isn't so bad the first year is because the State is putting funding in to offset the cost shift it's trying to make to the counties. However, in subsequent years, the State will reduce its contribution ultimately making the counties responsible for the cost shift. In addition, each counties MOE will have a cost inflator (5%-7% annually) tacked on to its cost automatically regardless if counties reduce its cost of operating the program.

Kern County News - We are currently in the process of negotiating wages and benefits with United Domestic Workers Union (UDW), who is the union for the IHSS care providers. We are renovating the Aging and Adult Services Department (AASD) building to add 5 interview rooms to our new building. We would like to go to one lobby instead of two as it currently stands to accommodate more people. The main lobby would then be located at the 5343 suite of the AASD building. Renovations should be completed by mid-October 2017.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES:

None.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. at Kern County Aging & Adult Services, 5357 Truxtun Avenue, in the Golden Generation Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lito Morillo, Secretary

LM/lj