

## **Annual Report to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors**

**Name:** Contra Costa County In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority  
Advisory Committee

**Meeting:** 1:00 to 4:00 on the third Tuesday of every month (except August & December)  
500 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill

**Chair:** Sydney Anderson

**Staff:** Jan Watson, Executive Director  
Elizabeth Dondi, Program Manager  
Beatriz Salgado, Secretary – Advanced Level

**Report Period:** December 2013 – December 2014

**Prepared by:** Sydney Anderson, Chair  
Jan Watson, Executive Director  
Elizabeth Dondi, Program Manager

### **I. ACTIVITIES**

#### **Provider and Consumer Training**

Through recommendations from the Health, Safety and Education Sub-Committee, consumer and provider educational and training sessions were conducted by Public Authority Registry/Training Specialists throughout the year.

Topics presented included:

- Alzheimer's disease
- CPR/First Aid
- Universal Precautions

This year as part of implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 855 and SB 873, which require caregivers to be compensated for overtime, travel time and wait time beginning January 1, 2015, the Registry staff conducted trainings to help providers and consumers understand rules pertaining to the added benefits and to teach them how to complete new timesheets which capture these additional benefits.

In addition to classroom training, the Public Authority continued to offer free comprehensive online caregiver training through IPCED (Institute for Professional Care Education). In order to cater to the demand of this training, this year the capacity was increased from 50 to 100 students. The online training is available to all active IHSS providers. Providers can earn credits (CEUs) for every course they complete. The online training is advertised on the Public Authority website and via the distribution of informational flyers.

#### **Rapid Response Program**

This program, which refers providers to IHSS consumers that are unexpectedly without their regular provider, continues to be negatively impacted by the discontinuance of stipends. However, the Public Authority staff initiated an on-call list of providers on the Registry, who are interested and willing to do short assignments. Public Authority staff has been using these providers to meet the needs of consumers who need emergency assistance. The committee continues to monitor the program and discuss ways to improve it so that vulnerable consumers may remain safely in their homes.

## **II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Communication and Networking/Community Involvement**

Advisory Committee Chair Sydney Anderson serves as treasurer for the East County Senior Coalition. Ms. Anderson is also an organizer of the East County Resource and Networking Group. She organized and attended the Living Better after 50 event in April and a senior Health and Information fair in Bethel Island in November.

Member Joan Weber participated in the CICA conference call in October. She was appointed the Chair of Rapid Response Committee in October after the previous chair resigned.

Member Gary Gray attended East Bay Paratransit Advisory Committee meetings to advocate removing barriers for persons with disabilities at bus and BART stations. He was instrumental in having BART at the Orinda station change the pickup site for disabled persons.

This year committee members voted to add an advocacy sub-committee. Through advocacy efforts of this sub-committee, BART is considering alterations to their new train car design so as to accommodate the needs of disabled persons.

## **III. ATTENDANCE/REPRESENTATION**

State Law, regulations and County Ordinance specify an eleven member Advisory Committee appointed by the Board of Supervisors. No fewer than fifty percent of the members shall be individuals who are current or past users of personal assistance services paid for through public or private funds or are consumers of In-Home Supportive Services. Six of the members meet this criteria.

Attendance at general meetings and sub-committees has been very good. One member resigned due to personal commitments. Currently there are two vacancies on the Committee: both are supervisorial appointments for District II and District V.

## **IV. TRAINING/CERTIFICATION**

This year Advisory Committee members received training or attended presentations on the following topics:

- Ethics
- AB 1234 Mandatory Advisory Body Requirement (every two years)

## **V. PROPOSED WORK PLAN**

- Recruit for and fill the vacancies on the Advisory Committee
- Continue to work with staff on trainings for providers and consumers
- Work with staff to increase the number of on-call providers for the Rapid Response Program and to restore stipends for the Program
- Increase outreach to providers regarding the ICPED online training
- Participate in monthly CICA meetings
- Reach out to other IHSS Public Authority advisory committees for best practices
- Work with East Bay transit agencies to improve the ridership experience for persons with disabilities
- Support staff during the implementation of SB 855 and SB 873
- Continue to monitor state and federal legislation and grants which impact IHSS