

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: January 2015 – December 2015

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
- Timesheet Training

In addition to classroom training, the Public Authority continued to offer free comprehensive online caregiver training through IPCED (Institute for Professional Care Education). 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 and lack of providers willing to do short term assignments. 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 Pittsburg in April and a Senior Health and Information Fair in Bethel Island in November. Sydney conducted training on "The Ins and Outs of IHSS" at the Stoneman

Village Senior housing facility where she is a social worker. She also attended the first Transitions Conference which brought together people from many healthcare disciplines and agencies to work together to reduce hospital readmissions and improve the quality of care.

Member Gary Gray regularly attended East Bay Paratransit Advisory Committee meetings to advocate removing barriers for persons with disabilities at bus and BART stations.

In 2014, committee members voted to add an Advocacy Sub-committee. A letter was sent to the Board of Supervisors requesting support of legislation in Sacramento that would have restored cuts and a COLA to SSI grants. The Board expressed their support at the May 5th meeting. In July, the sub-committee wrote to Kathy Gallagher, Director of the EHSD requesting county funding to resurrect the nearly non-existent Rapid Response program. Another letter, concerning the frequent outages of BART elevators, particularly at the Coliseum station, was sent to the BART Board of Directors in November. BART's Manager of Customer Access and Accessibility responded quickly with relevant information and included an invitation to contact him directly in the future.

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. Five of the members meet these criteria.

Attendance at general meetings and sub-committees has been very good. One member resigned in November due to personal commitments. Currently there are four vacancies on the Committee: three are supervisorial appointments for District I, II and V (including one provider seat), and the other is a consumer seat of any age.

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)
- Legal Services
- Caregiving Support
- Dementia
- Advance Healthcare Directives and Death issues
- Fall Prevention

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
- Participate in monthly California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA) phone conferences
- 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
- Continue to monitor state and federal legislation and grants which impact IHSS