

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 3:00 on the third Tuesday of every month
(Except August & December)
500 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill

Report Period: January 2016 – December 2016

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

I. ACTIVITIES

Provider and Consumer Training

Under the auspices of the Health, Safety and Education Subcommittee, consumer and provider educational and training sessions were conducted by IHSS Public Authority Registry/Training Specialists throughout the year.

Topics presented included:

- Alzheimer's disease
- CPR/First Aid
- FLSA Timesheet Training

Rapid Response Program

This program, which refers care providers to IHSS consumers that are unexpectedly without their regular caregiver, continues to be negatively impacted by the discontinuance of stipends and lack of independent providers willing to work short term assignments. With assistance from the Rapid Response Subcommittee, the Public Authority has conducted an RFI and is in the process of selecting a home care agency to fulfill requests for emergency services.

II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Communication and Networking/Community Involvement

Advisory Committee Chair Sydney Anderson is active in 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 and a Senior Health and Information Fair in Bethel Island. Ms. Anderson participated in a Cyber Security Workshop conducted by Consumer Action. She also attended the Hospital Readmission Reduction Summit

which focused on bringing cohesion across the entire care continuum to ensure a high standard of care and patient safety.

Member Gary Gray regularly attended East Bay Paratransit Advisory Committee meetings to advocate removing barriers for persons with disabilities at bus and BART stations. He was successful in persuading BART to change the location of some of their station signs to make it easier for those with disabilities to locate their paratransit pick-up and drop-off points. Mr. Gray also writes articles for the Black Athletes Sports Network Weekly and produces his own radio show.

This year, the Advisory Committee reviewed and revised their Policies and Procedures, which were approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 6, 2016.

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. The Committee added an IHSS provider as a member this year.

Attendance at general meetings and sub-committees has fallen off due to health problems of some of the members. Currently there are four vacancies on the Committee: three are supervisory appointments for Districts I, IV and V 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
- Quality Assurance in the IHSS Program
- Cyber Security
- Reducing Hospital Readmissions

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 which impact IHSS