

## 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

**Chair:** John Roe

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

**Report Period:** January 2019 – December 2019

**Prepared by:** John Roe, Chair  
Elizabeth Dondi, Executive Director

### I. ACTIVITIES

#### Provider and Consumer Training

Through collaboration with 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 in East, Central and West County.

Topics presented included:

- Alzheimer's and Dementia
- Grief and Mental Health
- CPR/First Aid

#### Rapid Response Program

This program refers providers to IHSS consumers who are unexpectedly without their regular provider. The Rapid Response Sub-Committee has continued to monitor this program. The Program, which provides services through a contracted home care agency, has allowed the most in need consumers to obtain the assistance they need and remain safely in their homes. For calendar year 2019, Public Authority received 245 requests for assistance and 148 requests were successfully filled.

### II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### Communication and Networking/Community Involvement

Advisory Committee members invited two speakers to do informational presentation on transportation resources available to seniors and disabled persons. The first presentation was from Elaine Welch, CEO of Mobility Matters - a transportation service specifically for low-income seniors. The second presentation was from Rashida Kamara, Manager of Accessible Services for County Connections. Both presenters shared information on services provided by their organizations, including eligibility and application process.

Advisory Committee Chair John Roe attended a workshop on the Master Plan on Aging (MPA).

Member Sydney Anderson is an active participant in the East County Senior Coalition. Ms. Anderson attended Senior Injury Prevention Education Forum in Oakland, Oakley Senior Center Grand Opening, Master Plan on Aging event, Brentwood Senior Resource Fair, Kaiser Planning Meeting for Medium Risk Low Income Patients in the Kaiser Special Needs Plan in Antioch, Grand Opening of East County Family Justice Center in Antioch, Antioch Senior Resources and Alzheimer's Informational Fair in Antioch.

Together with East County Senior Coalition, Ms. Anderson also organized and facilitated in the Living Better After 50 Event. She also assisted in organizing and facilitating the Bethel Island Health & Safety Fair.

Advisory Committee members alternated in attending and reporting issues discussed at the CICA (California In-Home Supportive Service Consumer Alliance) monthly call meetings in order to keep abreast of IHSS issues.

The Advisory Committee, through the Nominating Sub-Committee, interviewed and recommended for appointment to the Board of Supervisors one candidate for Consumer 60 or Older Seat 2 on the Public Authority Advisory Committee. The Board of Supervisors approved and appointed the candidate.

### **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. As of December 2019, five of the members meet these criteria.

Attendance at general meetings and sub-committees has been good. Currently, there are two vacancies on the Advisory Committee: one consumer 60 years or older seat 1 and one supervisory seat for District V. We are actively recruiting to fill these vacancies.

### **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)
- Dementia/ Alzheimer's
- CPR/First Aid
- Beyond the Basics – Expanding CalFresh to SSI/SSP recipients
- HICAP Medicare training.

### **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 CICA meetings
- Reach out to other IHSS Public Authority advisory committees for best practices
- Continue to monitor East Bay transit agencies and advocate when necessary for improvement to ridership experience for persons with disabilities
- Continue to monitor state and federal legislation and grants which impact IHSS
- Explore additional training opportunities for Advisory Committee members to equip members to be better advocates for seniors and persons with disabilities.