

Minutes For Mar 23, 2004 In-Home Supportive Services

Solano County Board of Supervisor's met in its ex-officio capacity as the In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority on this day in regular session. Present were Directors Forney, Kondylis, Kromm, Vasquez, and President Silva.

ORDERS

(Item 23) REPORT ON THE IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY ADVISORY FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION, RECEIVED

The Board was provided with an Agenda Submittal from the Department of Health and Social Services, dated March 23, 2004, incorporated herein by reference, regarding the report from the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Public Authority Advisory Committee.

Kathy Mitsopoulos, Chairperson IHSS Advisory Committee, introduced the Advisory Committee members that were present, and gave a brief introduction of the presentation.

Marcia McGee, IHSS Advisory Committee, outlined the people that are served by the In-Home Support Services, cities of residence, the primary languages spoken, the family care relationships, some outcomes of the Public Authority Registry's first year, and training that is provided for the workers, as outlined in Attachment 1, incorporated herein by reference.

Ms. Mitsopoulos discussed key accomplishments in the first year that included orientation training, fingerprinting, the number of workers joining the registry and the screening that is done, and referrals from the registry.

Responding to questions posed by Supervisor Kromm regarding referrals of screened and trained workers, Ms. Mitsopoulos noted the client could hire whomever they want, but the registry refers trained and screened workers. There is no guarantee that other workers have this training.

Ms. Mitsopoulos continued discussing consumer training and provider training.

Responding to questions posed by Supervisor Kondylis regarding the pay rate, Ms. Mitsopoulos noted all workers are paid at the same rate.

Carl Paschal, IHSS Advisory Committee, reviewed the Three Year Strategic Plan, as outlined in Handout I, and plan activities, and discussed his personal receipt of services that enabled him to remain in his home during a time of recuperation.

Ms. Mitsopoulos touched on the areas of other accomplishments, and thanked the Board for their support.

Responding to questions posed by Supervisor Vasquez regarding training of the providers, Lauren Rolfe, Executive Director IHSS Public Authority, noted the training is about 6 ½ hours, trainings are being done in the cities with 4 already completed and other scheduled in the future.

Responding to comments by Supervisor Kondylis regarding difficulties in other counties regarding the formation of the public authority, discussion of the State taking over the program, and the real need for trained qualified providers, and spot checking the clients and the providers, Ms. Rolfe noted for consumers using registry workers follow-ups are being done to ensure the match is working, this is not a case management system, and it is being considered to do additional spot checks.

Ms. McGee suggested the case managers doing the initial assessment try to collaborate to get providers into the registry for a better check and balance.

Ms. Rolfe noted one of the principles of IHSS is to maintain the consumers rights to choose their own provider, and noted the training program is available to all providers.

Supervisor Kondylis noted the importance of getting the providers to meet minimum requirements.

Supervisor Kromm noted how well the Advisory Committee has done, noted IHSS problems in other counties with part of the problem being the success of the program. This success is taking more money than is available, and cautioned the committee with the pending State budget cuts and the need to find ways to reduce costs. Responding Ms. Rolfe discuss strategies to increase revenues. Responding to questions posed by Chairman Silva regarding providers that are being paid with Medicare funding and spot-checking, Ms. Rolfe noted visits to some consumers by Public Health Nurses and by IHSS social workers at least annually or more frequently if there is notification of a problem. Chairman Silva noted how difficult it was in the past to find qualified people to provide services, and discussed the importance of the training.

Ms. Rolfe noted Solano County has done so well with the formation of the Public Authority due to the collaboration and partnership with the IHSS Program in Health and Social Services with the Advisory

Committee, and other Health and Social Services staff.

Rev. Robert Fuentes, Faith in Action, commended the IHSS Public Authority; wants to ensure the workers are stable citing past problems with caregivers, the benefits of the registry. Father Fuentes voiced concern with looming State budget cuts and the effects they will have on IHSS and ultimately effects on his program, the potential of having to place some clients being put into nursing facilities when it is really not necessary.

As said business was completed, the Board of Directors adjourned to continue the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

JOHN F. SILVA, President

MICHAEL D. JOHNSON, Secretary

By _____
Maggie Jimenez, Deputy Secretary