

Butte County In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

Advisory Committee Meeting

May 14, 2024

10:00am – 12:00 pm

Condor Room, 765 East Avenue

Chico, California

1. Call to Order – Mark Gordon, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 am. Committee members attending were introduced: Mark Gordon (Chair), Sarah May (Vice-Chair), Kristi Sherer (DESS Program Manager), Delcie Mills (IHSS Provider), Melinda Rayford (IHSS Provider), Christina Bonilla (IHSS Provider), Carnela Marks (IHSS Provider), and Tammy Solano (OCRA/DRC). Kara Hall (Public Authority Referral and Registry Supervisor) and Terri Petersen (Committee Facilitator – joined via Zoom) were also present.

2. Sarah May, Vice-Chair announced that a quorum was established.

3. The minutes of the February 13, 2024, meeting was reviewed for approval. The motion was made by Kristi Sherer and seconded by Christine Bonilla. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Kristi Sherer, DESS Program Manager, provided updates on Butte County's IHSS Program. She reported they are transitioning to electronic forms and processes via pilot program. California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will eventually make this mandatory. The purpose of this transition is part of "Program Efficiency" initiatives. There are currently a little over 4500 active IHSS cases in Butte County. There are 873 submitted applications, all at different stages of the 90-day application process. There is an increase in applications for minors, which are more complex cases, as most of the cases for minors, request Protective Supervision. Kristi expressed appreciation and recognition of current staff, who are

working very hard and have managed/implemented many program changes. They are focusing on increased outreach activities and have many events scheduled for education, outreach, and awareness of the IHSS Program.

5. Kara Hall, Public Authority's IHSS Referral and Registry Supervisor, provided updates including Public Authority (PA) hired a new staff, bringing the PA to 3 full-time staff, including Kara. IHSS Orientations are going well, and Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) has been implemented and operating for Butte County. California Association for Public Authorities (CAPA) has been monitoring multiple proposed legislative bills around background checks, proposed changes to the Brown Act, and the Governor's May Revise Budget.
6. Mark provided updates on the California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance (CICA) Northern Region conference that was held on April 9th from 1pm-3pm. The following counties participated: Butte, Placer, Humboldt, El Dorado, and Modoc Counties. It was a good meeting, and many common issues were shared amongst the counties. Small staffing and staff assuming multiple roles, seems to be common in rural counties in Northern California. Many of the Counties do not have an operational IHSS Advisory Committee currently. Mark shared how proud he was of Butte County's IHSS Advisory Committee and Program Staff. Mark also reported that he was asked to represent CICA in a Statewide Bargaining Workgroup on the pros/cons of Collective Bargaining for IHSS Providers that will eventually be provided to the Legislature. Mark reported that he was invited last year to participate in a video being produced on the 50th Anniversary of IHSS Program in California. CDSS will share the video when it is released for public viewing.
7. Committee discussed several issues including a recommendation to emphasize during Orientations, that direct deposit must be set up with every recipient. There was discussion around concerns that IHSS Providers are not informed of on-the-job health hazards due to the HIPAA Privacy Rule which establishes national standards to

protect individuals' medical records and other individually identifiable health information. Carnela Marks shared that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available for IHSS Providers through the local UDW office in Chico located at 2592 Notre Dame Blvd in Chico (530) 894-2702. IHSS Providers are eligible for these protective supplies even if they are not a union member. Carnela recommended calling the office first to be sure UDW staff are available for assistance.

The committee recognized a need for an information sheet on the IHSS Advisory Committee to provide to individuals who have questions, concerns, or want to learn more about the IHSS Program. Mark, Sarah, and Kara will review a past developed flyer and update with specified information that committee members can have available to share with others interested.

8. There were no public comments.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.
10. The next meeting of Butte County IHSS Advisory Committee will be held August 13, 2024, from 10:00 am – 12:00pm.