

Butte County In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

Advisory Committee Meeting

February 11, 2025

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 10:04 am. by Chair Mark Gordon. Introductions were made. Committee members attending were Vice Chair Sarah May, Kristi Sherer, Kara Hall, Melinda Rayford, and Delcie Mills. Also attending was Brianne Bryan, Staff Development Officer. Facilitator Terri Petersen was also present.

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

3. The minutes of November 12, 2024, meeting of the committee were reviewed and a motion for approval was made by Kristi and seconded by Kara. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Kristi Sherer, DESS Program Manager, provided updates.

There have been changes in staff due to resignations. Currently some positions are filled by temporary and interim staff.

There are currently only three vacancies in social worker staff and there are many new social workers.

State IHSS continues to push for efficiency and telehealth. There continues to be growth in the sector but no growth in workers. It is felt that Butte County is not yet ready for telehealth. The criteria for telehealth are a client in stable health with low para-health needs and no hospitalization. A client would be eligible for telehealth for one year and then would then move on to in-person visits. Minors are not eligible for telehealth visits.

Early adoption of electronic forms has been successful in Butte County. Butte County is currently using our own forms and will be moving to state forms.

The number of recipients remains steady at approximately 4500, surpassing the numbers before the Camp Fire. There are currently more than 3000 providers on the registry. The push continues to recruit additional providers, and current providers are being surveyed to ask if they desire more hours.

There is a significant trend in increasing cases for minor recipients. These cases take more time for processing and include assessment of the need for protective supervision.

IHSS supervisory staff are changing roles to increase departmental knowledge and efficiency.

5. Kara Hall of the Public Authority gave an update.

Targeted emails are being sent to providers in outlying areas such as Nord and Berry Creek to ask if they need more hours. It is hoped this will give more availability to clients in these areas.

Registry numbers continue to increase. Outreach to potential providers will be done at a Job Fair on 3/20/25 at the Chico Card Center.

Brown Act legislation AB259 and SB239 continue through the legislature. It is proposed that the date for valid online meetings would extend from 1/26/25 to indefinitely. Currently a quorum of the committee must be physically present for others to join electronically. Per SB239, electronic meetings could be held if all physically and electronically present were visible on camera. Then those present electronically could be counted toward the quorum needed.

AB283 was discussed. This would have enacted collective bargaining for IHSS employees for the entire state. It was decided to be too expensive for the state.

CAPA has expressed concerns regarding potential cuts to Medicaid. It is hoped clients will contact their representatives to share the impact these cuts would have on clients' lives. CAPA continues to discuss how best to rally clients to make these calls and has reached out to CICA.

6. Mark Gordon provided an update on CICA. CICA continues to follow AB283. The bill is felt to be lengthy and ambiguous. The status quo continues for now, but the union is still ready to push for collective bargaining. The situation is complicated by the number of counties in the state with a wide variety of factors.
7. There were no public attendees at this meeting.
8. The next meeting of this committee will be May 13, 2025.
9. The meeting adjourned at 11:34 am.