

**Contra Costa County In-Home Supportive Services  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
June 18, 2019 Meeting Summary**

**Present:** Mustafa Alsalihi, Sydney Anderson, Wilson Cheng, Keegan Duncan (On the phone), Michelle Hernandez (On the phone), John Roe, and Wendell Snyder.

**Absent:** Joe Juarez

**Staff:** Elizabeth Dondi, Lorena Orellana and Beatriz Salgado

**Guests:** None

**Roll Call and Introductions:**

John Roe, Chair of the AC Committee called the meeting to order at 1:27pm. Roll call was called and the sign-in sheet was completed. A quorum was established.

**Public Comment Period:**

None

**Individual Member Reports & Announcements**

Sydney reported that City of Oakley is having the Senior Center Grand Opening on Friday, June 21, 2019 from 10:00am to 1:00pm. The city has scheduled the opening ceremony from 10:00am to 11:00am, Guest speakers from 11:00am to 11:30am, Senior Resource Fair 11:30am to 12:30pm and the flag ceremony and closing remarks from 12:30pm to 1:00pm. The food distribution will be available from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Mustafa reported, on his issue trying to contact IHSS workers. Following Elizabeth's advice, Mustafa first contacted Public Authority hoping to get information and the best way to communicate with his recipient's social worker, but unfortunately the only thing he got was a bunch of phone numbers that did not get him a single call back, Mustafa expressed frustration and sense of solidarity with other providers experiencing similar situations.

Elizabeth explained the AC members that Contra Costa County IHSS Program is facing several issues with social workers such as, heavy workload, units working with half or less of their staff, and retention issues with social workers moving to other surrounding counties searching for a better pay. These factors make it hard for the few social workers available to respond quickly to all the calls.

Sydney mentioned that Stoneman Village (Sydney's work place) got a visit from the Food Bank on June 10, 2019. Food Bank visited Stoneman Village to sign up the residents for CalFresh benefits. About 40 residents signed up. Some of the residents, who signed, received a call in a day or two after they signed up. The purpose of the call was to find out if the applicant was in need of expedited application process. Some applicants also reported to Sydney that they received a letter scheduling them for appointment at the end of August 2019. Applicants are supposed to respond to the letter within 30 days from the sent date.

**May 21, 2019 Meeting Summary**

Wendell Snyder moved, Wilson Chen seconded, to approve the May 21, 2019 meeting summary as written. The motion carried; see votes below:

		Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
1	Mustafa Alsalihi	x			
2	Sydney Anderson	x			
3	Wilson Cheng	x			
4	Keegan Duncan				x
5	Michelle Hernandez	x			
6	Joe Juarez			x	
7	John Roe	x			
8	Wendell Snyder	x			

**Presentation from Rashida Kamara from County Connections**

Rashida Kamara was unable to attend the meeting. She has been scheduled for July 16, 2019 meeting.

**REPORTS**

**Fraud/Quality Assurance Report:**

None

**Staff Reports:**

Elizabeth informed AC members that Public Authority received good reference for the first choice candidate for the Senior Benefits Clerk position; however, the candidate decided withdrew her interest in the position. PA attempted to pursue the second candidate, but never obtained references. Now PA is working with EHSD Personnel unit to fill the position temporarily while recruiting to fill the position permanently.

Elizabeth reported that CCERA (Contra Costa County Employees' Association) exit conference was held on June 13, 2019. PA passed the Audit with one minor correction. CCCERA's policy requires that positions and their salary ranges be available to the public. PA positions and salary ranges did not meet the criteria. Our Personnel Unit worked with County Human Resources Department to make the correction.

Elizabeth informed AC members, that PA finally received Chantana's resignation letter, and the letter was forward to Supervisor Federal Glover's office. Supervisor Glover's staff will work with BOS to have the seat declared vacant.

Elizabeth also mentioned that Staff forwarded Mr. David Boots application and AC recommendation to County Health and Human Services Committee for consideration. The Committee is scheduled to meet on July 27, 2019.

Elizabeth also informed members that Area Agency on Aging is conducting a consumer survey in preparation of 2020-2024 Countywide Area Plan for Older Adults. Elizabeth distributed the flyer with the information, and mentioned that Survey Monkey link is included on the flyer for all the people interested in participating.

Elizabeth also gave the AC members an update on some of the legislative bills that CAPA (California Association of Pubic authority) is following as follows:

**SB 229 (Nazarian):**

**In-Home Supportive Services: Written Content Translation**

Current law requires the State Department of Social Services to translate a specified notice of action into the four threshold languages of the public receiving in-home supportive services. This bill would clarify that the department is required to provide translations of written content into the four threshold languages of providers of in-home supportive services in California. The bill would permit the department to work with counties and the County Welfare Directors Association to repurpose existing, county- produced translations of written content. ***This bill is currently on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file, where it is scheduled to be taken up later this month. This bill is co-sponsored by CAPA and CWDA. (No update)***

**AB 426 (Maienschein):**  
**In-Home Supportive Services program.**

Current law requires a county welfare department to assess each recipient's continuing monthly need for in-home supportive services at varying intervals, but at least once every 12 months. Current law authorizes a county to reassess a recipient's need for services at a time interval of less than 12 months from a recipient's initial intake or last assessment if the county social worker has information indicating that the recipient's need for services is expected to decrease in less than 12 months. This bill would require a reduction of a recipient's monthly authorized number of service hours to be based solely on a verified change of a recipient's medical condition, a change in the recipient's living arrangements, a change in the recipient's functionality, a change in the recipient's circumstances, a change in the law, or an error in computing a recipient's monthly authorized number of service hours. ***Bill referred to Senate Human Services Committee. The hearing is set for June 24, 2019. Recommended Position: Watch.***

**AB 477 (Cervantes):**  
**Emergency preparedness: vulnerable populations.**

This bill would require cities, cities and counties, and counties to include representatives from the access and functional needs population in the next regular update of their emergency plans. ***Bill is in Senate, passed Senate Governmental Organization and re-referred back to Senate Appropriation Committee on June 11, 2019 where it has not yet been scheduled for hearing. Recommended Position: Support.***

**AB 683 (Carrillo):**  
**Medi-Cal: eligibility.**

Current law requires Medi-Cal benefits to be provided to individuals eligible for services pursuant to prescribed standards, including a modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) eligibility standard. Current law prohibits the use of an asset or resources test for individuals whose financial eligibility for Medi-Cal is determined based on the application of MAGI. This bill would require the department to disregard specified assets and resources, such as motor vehicles and life insurance policies, in determining the Medi-Cal eligibility for an applicant or beneficiary whose eligibility is not determined using MAGI, subject to federal approval and federal financial participation. **This bill is currently in the possession of Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file, to be heard later. Recommended Position: Support. (No update)**

**AB 715 (Arambula):**

**Medi-Cal: program for aged and disabled persons.**

Current law requires the State Department of Health Care Services to exercise its option under federal law to implement a program for aged and disabled persons. Current law requires an individual under these provisions to satisfy certain financial eligibility requirements. Current law requires the department to implement this program by means of all-county letters or similar instructions without taking regulatory action and thereafter requires the department to adopt regulations. This bill would instead require, upon receipt

of federal approval, all countable income over 100% of the federal poverty level, up to 138% of the federal poverty level, to be disregarded, after taking all other disregards, deductions, and exclusions into account for those persons eligible under the program for aged and disabled persons. ***This bill is currently in the possession of Senate Health Committee, where it has yet to be scheduled for hearing. Recommended Position: Support.***

**AB 911 (Rodriguez)**

**911 services: elder adults and persons with disabilities.**

Would require the Office of Emergency Service, by January 1, 2022, to establish a statewide 911 Emergency Communication System. The bill would require the system to enable all Californians, including older adults, individuals with disabilities, and other at-risk persons, to voluntarily share specified information about themselves, via a secure internet website, to be transmitted to first responders during an emergency. ***This bill moved to Senate on May 24, 2019, was referred to Senate Committee on Governmental Organization where it will be heard on June 25, 2019. Recommended Position: Support.***

**AB 1088 (Wood): Medi-Cal:**

**Eligibility.**

Would provide that an aged, blind, or disabled individual who would otherwise be eligible for Medi-Cal benefits, as specified, would be eligible for Medi-Cal without a share of cost if their income and resources otherwise meet eligibility requirements. The bill would authorize the State Department of Health Care Services to implement this provision by provider bulletins or similar instructions until regulations are adopted. ***The bill would require the department to adopt regulations by July 1, 2021, and to provide a status report to the Legislature on a semiannual basis until regulations have been adopted. This bill moved to Senate on May 30, 2019 and was referred to Senate Health Committee on June 12, 2019, where it has yet to be scheduled for hearing. Recommended Position: Support.***

**SB 228 (Jackson):**  
**Master Plan on Aging.**

Would require the Governor to appoint an Aging Czar and a 15-member Aging Task Force to work with representatives from impacted state departments and with stakeholders to identify the policies and priorities that need to be implemented in California to prepare for the aging of its population and to develop a master plan for aging. The bill would require the master plan to address how the state should accomplish specified goals, including expanding access to coordinated, integrated systems of care. The bill would also require the Aging Task Force to solicit input from stakeholders and gather information on the impact of California's aging population. ***This bill was ordered to Assembly on May 23, 2019. On June 6, 2019 the bill was referred to Assembly Aging and Long Term Care Committee. The hearing is scheduled for June 25, 2019. Recommended Position: Pending.***

Elizabeth closed her report mentioning the AC members, that there is a potential topic for advocacy. Joe Juarez brought up this issue last week, and the link with the video and information was forward to the member on June 14, 2018. The issue will be discuss at the next AC meeting and possibly referred to the Advocacy sub-Committee for action.

**Chair Report:**

None

**Advisory Committee Expenditure Report:**

The report for July 2018 through June 11, 2019 was handed out for committee review.

**Health, Safety & Education Committee Report:**

No report as no meeting was held. Next meeting will be on July 9, 2018.

**Rapid Response Committee Report:**

No report as no meeting was held. Next meeting will be on July 9, 2018.

**Nominating Committee Report:**

No report as no meeting was held. No meeting is scheduled.

**Advocacy Committee Report:**

No report as no meeting was held. No meeting is scheduled.

**California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance (CICA) Report:**

The meeting was cancelled

**Independent Living Resource (ILR) Report:**

John Roe reported that ILR is still working on their annual fundraiser, this year ILR is planning on a wine tasting event. John also reported that ILR received a donation of 20 manual wheel chairs from John Muir Hospital at Solano County.

**SEIU 2015 Report:** None

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Other – agenda items for next meeting**

Discussion about the possible advocacy issue

**Next meeting:** July 16, 2019.

John adjourned the meeting at 2:40 pm.

**1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, 500 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill**

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John Roe, Chair

The Contra Costa County In-Home Supportive Services Advisory Committee is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to provide ongoing advice and recommendations regarding in home supportive services to the Public Authority. Any comments or recommendations made by the Committee or its members do not represent the official position of the County or any of the County's officers.