

**Contra Costa County In-Home Supportive Services  
Public Authority Advisory Committee  
March 21, 2017  
Meeting Summary**

**Members present:** Sydney Anderson, Wilson Cheng, Joe Juarez, Gary Gray, John Roe and Sarah Birdwell

**Absent:** none

**Staff:** Jan Watson, Elizabeth Dondi and Beatriz Salgado

**Roll Call and Introductions:**

Chair Sydney Anderson called the meeting to order. Roll was called and the sign-in sheet was completed. A quorum was established.

**Public Comment Period:**

None

**Individual Member Reports & Announcements:**

Gary Gray mentioned that he sent a letter to East Bay Paratransit regarding his recent good experiences riding the paratransit services in New Jersey and New York, and gave several suggestions on how East Bay Paratransit could improve their service. Gary reported that he has visited the East Bay BART stations and they have changed all the signs for people with disabilities on the Richmond line. He said that he will be writing another letter to BART about the continuous problems with the elevators within the month.

John Roe reported on Assembly Bill 1021 (Baker) which would expand statewide the ways in which a person can apply for IHSS besides via phone or fax to include by email, in person, and online capability if the county has that.

**October 18, 2016 Meeting Summary:**

John Roe moved and Wilson Cheng seconded a motion to approve the October 18, 2016 meeting summary as written. The motion carried; see votes below:

|   |                 | Meeting Summary |    |        |         |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|----|--------|---------|
|   |                 | Yes             | No | Absent | Abstain |
| 1 | Sydney Anderson | x               |    |        |         |
| 2 | Sarah Birdwell  | x               |    |        |         |
| 3 | Wilson Cheng    | x               |    |        |         |
| 4 | Gary Gray       | x               |    |        |         |
| 5 | Joe Juarez      | x               |    |        |         |
| 6 | John Roe        | x               |    |        |         |

**REPORTS:**

**Fraud/QA/IHSS:**

No report this month. Jan Watson mentioned that a long-time Fraud/QA Social Worker, Lorraine Gaul has retired.

**Staff Report:**

Jan Watson reported on the President's proposed budget which includes the complete elimination of the \$3 billion block grant which funds Meals on Wheels; the complete elimination of the funding for low-cost and free legal services for seniors; and a large reduction in the funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) utilized by seniors and families. Jan also outlined the House Republican proposal to reduce the funding for Medicaid (Medi-Cal) by changing it to a per-capita cap on spending in 2020. This would result in a massive cost shift to the states. Another piece of the American Health Care Act would erode IHSS funding by eliminating the extra six per cent federal funding through the Community First Choice Option (CFCO) on about 40% of IHSS cases.

Jan reported on the State's existing law which calls for the demise of the Coordinated Care Initiative as it is costing the state money instead of saving it. The state plans to keep the case management services and other features of the Cal Medi-Connect program. However, the counties' annual share of cost for the IHSS program is slated to go up by \$623 million due to the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) being discontinued on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Collective bargaining for the seven CCI counties has been moved from the now defunct Statewide Authority back to the counties.

Jan stated that the Public Authority budget for FY 17/18 is still being finalized by the Fiscal Unit at EHSD. It should be ready for the next Advisory Committee meeting.

Jan mentioned the California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS (CAPA) has produced a document containing legislative bills of interest. She highlighted AB432 which would make Public Authorities the employer of record for Waiver Personal

Care Services (WPCS) providers. The document will be sent via email to the members per their request.

Jan reported on the IHSS Payroll audit conducted by the California State Auditor's office. She went over some of the recommendations which include changing to a two-week time period so that providers can more easily complete their time sheets. Jan announced that she will be retiring at the end of this month.

**Chair Report:**

Sydney Anderson reported on the 12<sup>th</sup> annual "Living Better After 50" day of workshops to be held on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> in Pittsburg. Last year, 147 people attended the event.

Sydney also reported on a presentation at the East County SHARE meeting by a woman who lost her son to a combination of prescription drugs and alcohol when he was 20. She started a group called the National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse in 2010 and speaks at events that educate school children, seniors and others to the dangers of prescription drug abuse.

**Advisory Committee Expenditure Report:**

The report for July 1, 2015 through November 23, 2016 was reviewed by the members.

**Health, Safety & Education Committee:**

No report as no meeting was held. Next meeting will be on May 9, 2017 at 1:00.

**Rapid Response Committee Report:**

No meeting was held. Elizabeth Dondi reported that the RFI has been finalized and the homecare agency Visiting Angels was awarded the contract which will begin on June 1, 2017. Public Authority staff has been working with the California Department of Social Services, Hewlett Packard and the Office of Service Integration on the file transfer process which will take place twice a month. CMIPS must be updated to allow Contra Costa County to utilize contract mode with an agency. This will occur on May 15<sup>th</sup>, hence the June contract start date. PA staff is working on the referral form and other related documents for the program. The next Rapid Response meeting will be held on May 9, 2017 at 2:00.

**Nominating Committee Report:**

Sydney reported that the committee met to interview three Advisory Committee candidates on March 16<sup>th</sup> and again today to interview a fourth candidate. All four candidates are being forwarded to the full Advisory Committee for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for appointment. John Roe made a motion to

recommend these four candidates to the Board for appointment; Wilson Cheng seconded the motion.

Motion passed. See votes below:

|   |                 | Yes | No | Absent | Abstain |
|---|-----------------|-----|----|--------|---------|
| 1 | Sydney Anderson | x   |    |        |         |
| 2 | Sarah Birdwell  |     |    |        | x       |
| 3 | Wilson Cheng    | x   |    |        |         |
| 4 | Gary Gray       |     |    |        | x       |
| 5 | Joe Juarez      | x   |    |        |         |
| 6 | John Roe        | x   |    |        |         |

**Advocacy Committee Report:**

No report. Meeting will be held later today.

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

Gary presented the members with the written minutes from the February 15<sup>th</sup> state-wide call. The topic was the CalABLE (California Achieving a Better Life Experience) program for savings accounts for people with disabilities.

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

John Roe reported that he is now a Board member for ILR, along with AC members Wilson Cheng and Sarah Birdwell. He stated that the ILR is anticipating an 18% federal budget cut so will not be filling one of their vacant staff positions.

**SEIU 2015 Report:**

John reported that SEIU Local 2015 has completed its work on the constitution and bylaws and is now waiting for certification from the SEIU International.

**Unfinished Business:**

Jan presented the members with copies of the finalized Advisory Committee Policies and Procedures as well as copies of the original which shows the changes made by County Counsel. She went over the changes in the document which has already been approved by the Board of Supervisors. Wilson made a motion to approve the document as revised and Joe Juarez seconded the motion. The motion passed.

See votes below:

|   |                 | Yes | No | Absent | Abstain |
|---|-----------------|-----|----|--------|---------|
| 1 | Sydney Anderson | x   |    |        |         |
| 2 | Sarah Birdwell  |     |    |        | x       |
| 3 | Wilson Cheng    | x   |    |        |         |
| 4 | Gary Gray       | x   |    |        |         |
| 5 | Joe Juarez      | x   |    |        |         |
| 6 | John Roe        | x   |    |        |         |

**New Business:**

A. Election of 2017 Chair and Vice Chair - due to a lack of a quorum since the October 2016 meeting, the Advisory Committee has not met and elected officers to serve in 2017. Nominations occurred during the October 18, 2017 Nominating Committee meeting and they are:

Chair: Sydney Anderson  
Sarah Birdwell  
Wilson Cheng

Vice Chair: Gary Gray  
Wilson Cheng

The votes for Chair were as follows:

|   |                 | Anderson | Birdwell | Cheng |
|---|-----------------|----------|----------|-------|
| 1 | Sydney Anderson |          | x        |       |
| 2 | Sarah Birdwell  |          |          | x     |
| 3 | Wilson Cheng    | x        |          |       |
| 4 | Gary Gray       |          |          | x     |
| 5 | Joe Juarez      | x        |          |       |
| 6 | John Roe        | x        |          |       |

Sydney Anderson will serve again as Chair.

The votes for Vice Chair were as follows:

|   |                 | <b>Gray</b> | <b>Cheng</b> |
|---|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 | Sydney Anderson | X           |              |
| 2 | Sarah Birdwell  |             | X            |
| 3 | Wilson Cheng    | X           |              |
| 4 | Gary Gray       |             | X            |
| 5 | Joe Juarez      | X           |              |
| 6 | John Roe        |             | X            |

As there was a tie, Gary Gray withdrew his nomination for Vice Chair. Wilson Cheng will serve again as Vice Chair.

**B. Appointment by the Chair of sub-committee chairs and members:**

Health, Safety and Education: Chair – Sydney Anderson  
Members – Sarah Birdwell, Joe Juarez (temp)

Rapid Response: Chair – Gary Gray  
Members - Sydney Anderson, Joe Juarez (temp)

Advocacy: Chair – Wilson Cheng  
Members – Sarah Birdwell, Gary Gray, Joe Juarez, John Roe

Nominating: Chair – Sarah Birdwell  
Members – Wilson Cheng, Sydney Anderson, Joe Juarez

The members expressed their hope that once the four new members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors that they will choose to join the sub-committees.

**Other – agenda items for next meeting**

None.

**Next Meeting: April 18, 2017  
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, 500 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill**

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Sydney Anderson, 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.