

California IHSS Consumer Alliance Statewide Call Notes Calendar Year 2016

Below are links to notes taken for all of the 2016 statewide calls. The paragraphs are very brief and the calls include much more.

January, 2016

CICA welcomes Karen Keesler, Executive Director of California Association of Public Authorities (CAPA). Karen will share information on FLSA changes, new exemption draft All County Letter (ACL), and share information on legislation affecting the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program.

January's CICA statewide call welcomes Jodi Reid, Executive Director, California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA). Jodi will update callers on what is happening with Supplement Security Income/ State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP) through the group Californians for Supplement Security Income (#CA4SSI). Also she will provide a brief overview of "Empowered Elder" training CARA is sponsoring throughout 2016.

February, 2016

Deborah Doctor, Legislative Advocate, Disability Rights California (CDR) shared information about the power point created by DRC about the "New Rules for IHSS: Overtime and Related Changes" that came in with the FLSA ruling.

March, 2016

Tony Anderson, called in from his office. Executive Director of Arc of California. It's an association of parents of children with developmental disabilities with the main focus on support. They are also affiliated with United Cerebral Palsy organization.

Below is from ARC's Website: <http://www.thearc.org/who-we-are/mission-and-values>

Mission Statement of Arc: "The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively

supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.”

April, 2016

Charissa Miguelino, CDSS spoke regarding exemptions – Two All County Letters have been released, [ACL 16-07](#) & [ACL 16-22](#) dealing with exemptions.

She shared a short overview of the two exemptions and a brief description of when they were presented. The below is taken directly from the two ACLs that gives more detail on these exemptions.

May, 2016

Starting off the call will be **Karen Keesler**, Executive Director, of the California Association of Public Authorities (CAPA). She will share updates about the budget, FLSA, and CAPA work.

Following Karen, **Mary Tinker**, Executive Director, Santa Clara County Public Authority Service. She will share information about Santa Clara’s IHSS program and training available to consumers and providers.

June, 2016

Karen Keesler shared: Two important items in the State budget is in regards to the 7% cuts and FLSA.

But first want to share the IHSS Coalition had written a letter requesting the restoration of the IHSS Share of Cost Buy-out.

Greg Thompson, Executive Director, PASC: The PASC have been trying to get the appropriate information to consumers and providers in an understood format.

As we all know there are a lot of changes happening with the IHSS program and what was seen many of these decision are being make with little input from those the program affects. Yes, there is a small group of advocates, very good ones who can travel to Sacramento, but PASC is looking to improve gathering and sharing information to and from those under the IHSS program. The need for consumer outreach was seen as something needed.

July, 2016

Timesheet/Payroll Audit: Discussion on the timeliness of the processing of timesheets and payrolls was held. There is an audit being done and it is expected to be completed in late March or early April, 2017. This was information given to Charlie by Assemblymember Gonzalez's office. It was explained that when CMIPS first began they had three days to process the timesheets. In April, another notice was sent out and it was understood they had 5 days to enter the timesheets and get them to the State Controller for payment (something we need to verify).

Perry Vermilyea: Mel Beatle is also on the call. The SF mentorship program is located the Salvation Army building on the 9th floor. They have a staff of three, with 15 active mentors. When Perry first started there were more mentors, but this number was cut down now to where it is presently taking it in a new direction, looking to create a more professional appearance and looking for those with the time to participate.

August, 2016

Karen Keesler shared information about Bills AB 1584, AB 1930, & SB 1234.

Jewel Lee, Executive Director (Public Authority), Riverside County IHSS Program made a presentation on Riverside's "Provider Back-Up System (BUS)."

OVERVIEW: The "IHSS Provider Back-Up System" is an emergency in-home care intervention for clients at risk of removal from their homes due to health, safety concerns. The concept of the BUS was started three years ago.

September, 2016

Karen Keesler – Minimum wage increase was signed by the governor earlier this year to be at \$15 by January 2022. Because of off-ramps within the statute, there is a possibility this may not happen based on the

state budget circumstances. As of January 1, 2017 minimum wage will go to \$10.50.

Kristina Bas Hamilton – Adding to the wage issue in San Diego, UDW also filed a complaint with the local Labor office about the city's minimum wage being a higher amount than what the State is paying IHSS consumers. It needs to wind its way through the legal system.

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) - This deals with the Federal Bill [HR 2646 where section 207](#) requires states receiving Medicaid funding for Home Care Workers to initiate an EVV system by 2019. If a state does not Medicaid funding would be reduced each year it did not do this.

October, 2016

Karen Keesler: Paid Sick Leave: This will begin July, 2018. There will be a stakeholders meeting October 26th, it is believed the time for the meeting is 10:30 a.m. to noon. It is believed there will be a phone line provided for people to call in from around the State. There is considerable concern for having a back-up system for consumers to have providers available if the regular provider does call in sick. Research is being done on Public Authorities who run back-up systems; it is believed there are 15 doing this already

Secured Choice Retirement Legislation: Keven Delano, the author and took the lead in putting this bill through to provide a retirement system for over 7 million employed individuals who do not have access to retirement programs outside of Social Security. The amendments made included IHSS providers in early August. There are several hurdles to overcome to allow IHSS Providers can participate in this investment program. Need to verify it will not conflict with other Federal programs and programs surrounding employment retirement.

Sue Ouichocho, Systems & Administration Branch, Adult Programs, CDSS: In efforts to modify CIMPS II to support SB 855 & 873, Advanced Pay has gone to a semi-monthly reconciliation process. Prior to this reconciliation was made once a month. After they worked the entire month they would be paid after the fact, or during the following month.

The intention by going to the semi-monthly reconciliation it enables the provider to be paid overtime during the current month.

November, 2016

Christina will share information about the [Digital Access Project: Increasing Online Opportunities and Access for People with Disabilities](#).

Christina Mills, Deputy Director, California Foundation for Independent Living Center. Oversee several different state programs, such as Disability Organization Network, Ability Network, Tech Act loaning out technical equipment that loans equipment for 30 days, and are now offer a loan program freedomtech.org, [Voice Options](#) is a pilot program through the California Utilities Commission, Youth programs 16 through 28, and last is our Digital Access Project (link above).

December, 2016

Karen Keesler, CAPA – Had 5 informational topics to share:

Federal Legislation on Electronic Visit Verification (EVV): This was passed in the 21st Century Cures Act, HR 34, EVV is in [section 12006](#) of this Bill requiring State who offer home care services (IHSS) to begin using EVV by January, 2019. By then if the State does not have this started Medicaid funding will be reduced by 25% and each year after this funding is lowered. There are provisions within the bill for the penalty to be waived if the State is making an effort and shows progress towards the EVV system.

Deborah Doctor: She first started working with IHSS in 1995, also when she first met Karen. At the time she was a Public Authority of Alameda County. At the time there were around ¼ million consumers.

The program has come a long ways and much is this is because of the various advocates fighting for the program and its development of the IHSS program where it is today.