



# CICA California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance

State Wide Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, July 15, 2009  
Via Conference Call

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Janie Whiteford at 10:05AM.

## 2. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

### Members Present

Yvonne Almore, Orange County  
Cindy Calderon, Humboldt County  
Felice Connelly, Riverside County  
Francis Gracechild, Yolo County  
Tracy Harrell, Tulare County  
Jene McCovey, Humboldt County  
Bonnie Mello, Santa Clara County  
Chris Otero, Los Angeles County  
William Reed, Placer County  
Terry Scussell, Marin County  
Ethel Webb, Shasta County  
Janie Whiteford, Santa Clara County  
Virginia Wilson, San Diego County  
Mary Tucker, Nevada County  
Lawrence Zynda, San Diego County

### CICA Support Staff

Amy Terhorst, CICA Administration

### CAPA Liaison

### Guests

Karen Keeslar, UDW Legislative Consultant

## 3. BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Karen reported that the mood in the capitol is very low. Activities are moving quickly. The budget conference committee has been doing a lot of work. Hearings have been held with a lot of IHSS consumers and providers testifying. The first modification of budget cuts is that a person with functional index below 2 would lose IHSS benefits. They approved a change in share of cost so that IHSS consumers lose 50% of buyout. A work group is being formed that would get fraud data, have discussions about current procedures on fraud, and come back to legislators about how to do additional fraud detection. They agreed to reduce the IHSS administrative cost by 20%. IHSS Advisory Committee funding not being touched. Packages advanced to the floors of both houses. The budget conference committee recommended tax

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increases. The Governor is pushing leg to deal with “rampant IHSS fraud” and proposing that all IHSS workers go through fingerprinting and federal background checks. The Governor wrote an editorial which ran in the Los Angeles Times. Deborah Doctor submitted an op-ed which was printed and has been distributed. Big 5 still meeting on IHSS cuts. Fraud is a HUGE area of focus in the capitol. Democrats have done a good job of pushing back saying that there is no data to support allegations.

A law suit has been filed dealing with IHSS wages. The SEIU put together a lawsuit filed in federal court asserting that a reduction in state financial participation in wages was illegal because they failed to evaluate how this would affect consumers. The court agreed that this couldn't happen until the evaluation was done. State filed an emergency appeal. The Department of Social Services issued an All County Letter with instructions for counties about how to restore wages to the pre-July amounts before the cuts.

### **4. IHSS COALITION ACTIVITIES**

The IHSS coalition is a wide range of participants throughout the state including SEIU, UDW, CFILC, Marin PA Gov Board, Gray Panthers, AARP, CICA and IHSS consumers. John Wilkins from Fresno County IHSS Advisory Committee is the chair. They are very involved in fighting the budget cuts. Activities today will be starting at 11:30 at the Governors offices throughout the state. You can go to the IHSS Coalition website for information about where they are happening. As a private citizen, Advisory Committee members can participate in activities. Go to [www.IHSScoalition.org](http://www.IHSScoalition.org) for more info. Cindy Calderon added that the week of July 27 is “graveyard week” at capitol. Organizations are collecting tombstones that will go on the lawn of the capitol representing people who might die if cuts go through.

### **5. CAPA UPDATE**

Eldon Luce reported that CAPA is involved in state budget process trying to avoid further cuts. They are trying to chase the injunction on provider wages and decide how to respond to it. CAPA is working with the DSS to get the increase in federal participation through stimulus money for Public Authority administrative costs. This has been a real challenge. Public Authorities have always received money, but the feds are now saying that they are not eligible for increase.

CAPA's annual conference will take place September 21 & 22. They are still dealing with the Provider Enrollment Form and saying that the form is way too long and complicated. Arguing that requirement making providers ineligible if they have a previous felony conviction limits consumer choice.

### **6. CICA WEBSITE**

Janie Whiteford reported that the website is complete. Add CICA conference call information will be added to the website.

### **7. CICA MEMBERSHIP DUES FY09/10**

Janie Whiteford reported that invoices have gone out for current members. We are accepting new members and are willing to go out for presentations.

**8. FRAUD IN THE IHSS PROGRAM**

Janie Whiteford reported that this is a huge issue. She asked that each county please have a county person come to your advisory committee and give a report on what is going on in your specific county on fraud. A list of questions to ask your county representative and CAPA's position on fraud is on the CICA website. There is no factual information being used for allegations on fraud. Another good source of information is the IHSS coalition website that includes all of the press releases that have been happening on fraud issue. UDW is putting out two full page ads in Sacramento Bee regarding this issue.

**9. CICA ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE**

Janie Whiteford reported that the dates of the conference are January 22-24, 2010 at the San Jose Doubletree Hotel. Save The Date cards will be mailed in August and registration will begin in October.

**10. OTHER**

No other issues were reported.

**11. COUNTY HAPPENINGS**

Cathy Mitsopoulos announced that Solano County held a transportation summit and are continuing discussions about ways to improve transportation needs. The Solano County Advisory Committee supported the summit (not financially, but on the panels) in coalition with other organizations in county.

Terry Scussell reported that Marin County IHSS Governing Board presented their annual report to the Board Of Supervisors and received very positive feedback

**12. ADJOURNEMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00AM. The next regularly scheduled CICA statewide meeting will take place Wednesday, August 19, 2009 at 10:00AM.

**\*\*Please make sure to join the call from a quiet location or be prepared to mute your phone while on the call. Your call may be subject to mute by the Administrator if the noise level cannot be controlled.  
Thank you for your cooperation.\*\***

*Submitted by Amy Terhorst*