

**CICA Statewide Call
December 20, 2017 – 10 a.m.**

Notes

Karen Keesler, Executive Director, California Association of Public Authorities (CAPA):

Karen shared information CAPA is working on. CAPA will be sponsoring three action items this year and will be getting information to CICA and others for formal support.

The first action item deals with waivers AB 432 that would add the waiver providers to the bargaining unit – this would add to services (link to bill final version:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB432). Governor vetoed this bill. Governor’s veto message:

“This bill authorizes a county to contract with either a nonprofit consortium or a public authority to be the employer of record for providers of waiver personal care services. The bill also requires the wages and benefits negotiated by the county for these providers to be equal to the wages and benefits for In-Home Supportive Services providers.

This bill could lead to unknown General Fund costs in the near term by giving counties collective bargaining authority over a state administered program that does not include a county share of cost. As with other program expansions, this is more appropriately considered as a part of the budget process.”

CAPA plans on submitting a budget proposal to cover additional costs to include those waiver providers to provide future benefits an included n the bargaining unit (this is a short version of the explanation – recording is provided).

Second item deals new State program called “Secure Choice.” This is not on-line yet. There has been State legislation to create a program for use

as a retirement fund, call it “Secure Choice Retirement.” This comes from SB 1234 and IHSS workers are included in this. This is an optional choice for providers to contribute to for future retirement.

This is unique, for the State has had a better record of investing for State employee retirement programs, given as an example was last year’s return of 11%. This is to be implemented in 2019.

This link gives more information: <http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/scib/>

Fact Sheet <http://sd24.senate.ca.gov/retirement> at the end of the paragraph about the Secure Choice Retirement, there is a [Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)

There are several barriers to getting this to pass through, identifying who the employer is under the IHSS program. CAPA has met with Treasury Department and working through some of the barriers to enable IHSS workers to participate. Please review the links and listen to the recording.

The third bill being worked on is more complicated. But is important because of the disasters; experience showed individuals evaluated from their homes were going one-way while the provider was going another. This caused many problems with getting paid, connecting with recipients and providers ([personal note: this is an issue up and down the state where the recipient and provider is separated; this makes it more difficult for Emergency Services; individuals are advised to create emergency plans for the recipient and provider in case an emergency – this will assist emergency services – A suggested sample list will be publish by CICA towards the end of January](#))

Three elements will be included in this bill:

1. Timely process of replacing lost pay checks; The State found a way to process lost pay checks in an expedient way, but it was noted this was only temporary. In the bill, it is looking to place the process used as a permanent way to replaced lost checks involving disasters and other emergencies.

2. Evacuation shelters need to comply with ADA, but there is nothing in the State Law that personal care attendants are made available. This has been a FEMA recommendation and it is an addition to the Emergency Shelter requirement to be proposed or added as a requirement.
3. The third issue is when the consumer returns to their home after a disaster, extra help is needed to clean up their house, throw spoiled food out, etc. There is an approval for extra hours to do major cleaning, one-time and this is what the bill will have in it pertaining to the after effects of a disaster to return home. There also may be a need for extra hours if one's home was destroyed, and they need to live in a hotel/motel – extra work for meals, laundry, bathing, etc.

It is believed these are covered costs under FEMA and will be looking for stronger support.

Kristine: Asking for numbers on the bill? How can we help?

Karen: Do not have bill numbers yet. Legislation will be returning on January 3rd with the Governor submitting his budget on January 10th.

At this time there is nothing we can do until the wording is finalized and we gather a sponsor. When this is done I will forward CICA and other information about the bills and what needs to be done. CICA could write to support for getting a sponsor.

Jared McCreary, Californians for Supplemental Security Income (CA4SSI), <http://ca4ssi.org/>

Last year there was a bill AB 796 going through the legislature, but it died. Mostly because of the cost, estimated to have been \$1.2 Billion dollars. The total amount of SSI/SSP in California is about 90% of the Federal Poverty Level.

The asked last year was to bring it up to the Federal Poverty level in three steps: 1. To bring it up to 96% percent of the Federal Poverty Level; 2. To

bring it up to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level; and, 3. To finalize constant COLAs so the payment stays at the Federal Poverty Level; codify yearly COLAs.

In the past there were bills brought up to bring the payment up to the Federal Poverty Level, but always stopped with a veto from Governor Brown.

With the SSP portion of the SSI payment not receiving COLAs since 2009, it was discovered the increase in Medicaid reimbursement to doctors was another not restored. We saw in last year's legislation that increase to doctor's Medicaid payments was passed with COLAs to SSP to begin in 2021.

Knowing this, there is interest in increasing SSI/SSP and this is good for future work.

We met recently with budget committee staff and they asked for a new bill to increase SSI/SSP. This was favorable and with the present political climate it may be better to introduce something much less than a billion dollars; spread it over a few years, not all at once. Being considered is instead of increases over two years but maybe over 4 years. The smaller amount in millions may be easier for State Legislation to pass.

Other things being done are listening sessions across the State, we want to hear from SSI Recipients (Charlie forward schedule for these). Being informed about needs from SSI recipients is important, as well as knowing the strategies we need to know from the legislation.

In going into the next year, more assistance is going to be needed by others. It is good to keep attendance high at District Meetings and for travel to Sacramento.

Can forward information material about District meeting if there are champions.

Janie: I understand they are targeting SSDI at the Federal level, do you have any action plans for advocacy at the Federal level?

Jared: For this Justice on Aging is closely worked with. HR 2792 was one this past year they used a public safety message to target individuals with past criminal records. This has not passed the Senate.

“H.R. 2792 — 115th Congress: Control Unlawful Fugitive Felons Act of 2017.” www.GovTrack.us. 2017. December 31, 2017

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr2792>

There is future to target California Representatives on voting for past and future issues concerning welfare and SSA programs. All but 5 of California Representatives voted for the above bill.

Listen to the recording for an exact presentation!