



735 P Street, Eureka, CA 95501

**CICA Statewide Call
Minutes/Notes
March 19, 2014**

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Heard a lot of names, yet did not record them (I was unable to get them recorded or sign in to "Unlimited Conferencing"). Had counted 20 individuals on the call and only got part of the names. (Next call, I shall get and take names!).

2. **K. Keesler:** Shared the Assembly and Senate sub-committees have not taken action regarding the hearings held about Governor Brown's cap of 40-hours-per-week. A decision is not expected until after the May-budget revision from the Governor.

It was noted as the budget has been presented it may have \$6 billion to go into reserves, but it is estimated when the final budget comes out, there possibly could be \$8 billion in reserves.

It was noted pressure needs to be kept on our State Representatives through June 15. One suggestion made (Beckham) is to make appointments with your State Representatives at their local offices during the Spring break, April, 14-18, 2014.

IHSS Coalition (IC) is working to stop the 7% cut being proposed by the State.

Reminded folks work is being done on implementing new tasks approved; Care Providers will be paid for accompanying Recipients to the doctor (did this include waiting?) and mileage for traveling from one Recipient to another (Mileage is not provided from your home to place of employment, but from one recipient's home to another, yes?).

There will be a Stakeholders meeting Friday, March 21st from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Discussion will be on new coverage and FLSA. Phone number to be forwarded when received.

Please note the Secretary expanded information shared about the following bills to what was being provided (could not get into the recorder; wanted to catch and share info):

AB 1703: Supportive services shall include domestic services and services related to domestic services, heavy cleaning, personal care services, accompaniment by a provider when needed during necessary travel to health-related appointments or to alternative resource sites, yard hazard abatement, protective supervision, teaching and demonstration directed at reducing the need for other supportive services, paramedical services that make it possible for the recipient to establish and maintain an independent living arrangement, and assistance in reading and completing financial and other documents for a recipient who is blind or visually impaired, or who has another disability that affects his or her ability to read. Assembly members Beall and Hall introduced this. **Hearing date is March 25, 2014**

AB 1433: Existing law provides for the county-administered In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program, under which qualified aged, blind, and disabled persons are provided with services in order to permit them to remain in their own homes and avoid

institutionalization. Existing law authorizes services to be provided under the IHSS program either through the employment of individual providers, a contract between the county and an entity for the provision of services, the creation by the county of a public authority, or a contract between the county and a nonprofit consortium. Existing law requires a county, public authority, or nonprofit consortium, as applicable, to conduct an investigation of the qualifications and background of an IHSS provider applicant, including specified criminal background checks.

This bill would require, as part of those criminal background checks, the Department of Justice to request federal summary criminal history information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and to review the information returned from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and provide it to the county, public authority, or nonprofit consortium. Introduced by Assemblymember Waldron.

This bill will add approximately \$17 to the present background fee Care Providers pay throughout the State, which is estimated to be \$32 to \$37 depending on County. This could make the fee \$50 plus dollars for a background check. Presently the background checks only get information pertaining to criminal history known in California – Supposedly there is concern that individuals from out-of-the-State who committed felonies would come to California to work as Care Providers for minimum to low wages.

AB 2641: In-Home Supportive Services program: provider exclusions: crimes.

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Under existing law, a person is prohibited from providing or receiving payment for providing services for 10 years following conviction for, or incarceration following conviction for specified crimes, including fraud against a government health care or supportive services program. Existing law, subject to provisions authorizing waivers and exemptions, also prohibits a person from providing or receiving payment for providing services for 10 years following a conviction for, or incarceration following a conviction for, a serious or violent felony, a felony for which registration as a sex offender is required, or a felony misuse of CalFresh funds.

This bill would repeal the provisions that authorize a waiver or exemption from the 10-year exclusion for a person who has committed a serious or violent felony, a felony for which registration as a sex offender is required, or a felony misuse of CalFresh funds. Introduced by Assembly member Patterson.

Discussion about the "Provider back-up Program" with the understanding that those working as back-up providers would be paid 25% more per hour than those working permanently. It was thought this may cause problems for the Recipient is getting regular Care Providers more difficult, but more may work as back-up providers. The 40-hour per week limit for Care Providers will require recipients to do more work in recruiting appropriate number of Care Providers to meet their needs.

It was reminded that when a Care Provider exceeds 40-hours per week a 2nd time, they will be suspended from the ability to work

under the IHSS Program for 1 year! (I put this in bold because it will be an issue for rural Counties, as well as with recipients who have family assist them.)

It was noted the Legislative Analyst estimated over-time will cost the State \$160 million on top of a \$7 million budget for IHSS.

3. **Discussion of IHSS - Donna Calame:** Donna has been involved with IHSS from its conception and before it was a Program. From her earlier work she went from being an advocate defending Recipients and promoting positive in-home care she has served as the IHSS Public Authority for the past 20 years plus.

She stressed the need to remember the importance of the work IHSS Care Providers and Public Authorities and others do. This involves recognizing the crucial work presently being done and how to expand services in the future.

One thought presented was to encourage more consumers to be involved in how services are developed and to get more of the consumer opinion through encouraging their voice through involvement. It was noted that they applied for a grant through "Robert Johnson Grant Program" quite a few years ago and they were number 5 missing getting the grant; awarded to the top 4 (<http://www.rwjf.org/en/about-rwjf.html>)

it is believed that we need to push for more voice from the consumer.

With 7 to 8 counties soon going to be under the "Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI)," concern expressed about representation of the consumers, especially under the "managed care" programs being established. Need to work towards improving the voice of the consumer and improving their representation throughout the

IHSS Program. Use more IHSS to expand into education, the work-place, and community activities for the consumer to be more integrated into the community.

Beckham, being one who has known Calame and worked with her since IHSS began, shared that in the beginning there was a group that met a while back and they had created a "Bill of Rights" for the IHSS consumer supporting "independent living." There was also an agreement between the IHSS consumers and SEIU to allow the consumer to control their lives and make decisions on their own.

It was suggested to contact John Wilkins to get a copy of this Bill of Rights and agreement (at the time this was written, Wilkins responded and suggested contacting Karen Keesler.).

Question was asked, if the State legislation would put the money back into the budget it once had? It was doubted, but one avenue of creating better representation was to have consumers contact their Representatives, especially those who are in favor and support of the IHSS Program.

An example of how this was done was talked about: San Francisco IHSS Advisory Board member, Alice, did a video on her own sharing her experience and need for IHSS. It was suggested that other consumers can do this, using their computers sharing person stories and why there is a need for IHSS. Possible these videos could be placed on CICA's Website (<http://cicaihss.org/>). We need to be stronger advocates for ourselves and videos can be one avenue towards this.

4. **Other CICA Business:** Reminder about the Annual Meeting of CICA this Friday, March 21, 2014, 11 a.m. Elections and change in

bylaws.

5. **Other Business All Advisory Committees:** It was expressed to make more contacts with other Advisory Committees encouraging them to meet as often as possible. The Shasta County Advisory committee only meets twice a year? How does this provide representation to the consumer? Calderon to follow-up. Other Regional VPs need to make contact with IHSS Advisory Committees encouraging more involvement and promoting their work.

6. **Reminder of the Annual Meeting- Elections: Friday, March 21, 2014 @ 11 a.m.**