

California IHSS Consumer Alliance
Statewide Call March 21, 2018
1-800-309-2350 pass: 10282015#

Notes

These notes are not word for word.

There were 28 callers on the call – Names are not given by everyone.

Sue, Karol, Karen, Cindy, Kristina, Kristine L., Rick, Heidi, Bonnie, Jene,

Our statewide calls use the same number each month; our calls are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Please mark your calendars and write the above number down to lessen confusion.

Kristina Bas Hamilton, UDW: She shared positive remarks received from the past two hearings of the State Senate and Assembly Budget Health & Human Services hearings held in the past two weeks. Got feedback from those who participated which was good. It was noted that the State will be unable to begin EVV January 2019 as mandated and will be asking for an extension of time to start. The State has been working on this in good faith with little information from CMS.

It was noted from past experiences changes in IHSS this big takes longer than usual. This gives opportunity for more conversations and stakeholder involvement. UDW helped some stakeholders to be at the hearings to share their thoughts and UDW opposes the EVV. This is a Federally mandated program and it is important to get on this for if not the State will lose funds, and this will hurt consumers.

At the hearings we wanted to share there is a lot of anxiety among the consumers and this needs to be carefully. It was felt the Sub-committee chairs heard what was said. It was good news to hear CDSS is not going to implement this in January and it gives room to breathe. UDW assisted 12 consumers to the hearings and the committees listened to their concerns.

All items involving IHSS were left open. A final decision will probably not be made until the May revised budget comes out. So, consumers still have

time to share their thoughts and concerns to the department and legislatures.

Kristine: Do you anticipate any reports like a cost analysis from an LAO?

Kristina: I do not know of any. It would be good to have a Legislator to request this, it would need to come from someone on the budget committee to request this from the LAO. Could be something others might want to lobby for. UDW are having a lot of conversation with legal offices of Disability organizations about privacy concerns. Understanding at one point how would EVV be a violation of privacy, there is not a smoking gun and it depends on how it is implemented.

Kristina offered to speak to anyone more candidly one-on-one. She had to go meet another appointment. Need consumer presence in the Capital. Thank you!

Sue CDSS: Just to note, CDSS will not be able to implement EVV by January 2019. We want to state we want to have a robust stakeholder outreach and involvement before this is implemented. As Kristina stated, we have not gotten much information from CMS. We expected more information at the end of January, and here it is March, nothing has been received.

Some of the take away from the meeting held March 9th, was CDSS has every intent on how services are offered and where provided will not change. Heard of anxiety of possibly being needed to be homebound, this is not the intent of what is being worked on from our end. There was also concern about GPS, it is not our intent to use this to tack consumers.

Karol CDSS: We are relooking at the requirement of GPS, because there may be some who want to use it. But we do not know how this looks, but the intent is not to use.

Karen CAPA: One of the IHSS Coalition members sent out a power point presentation from CMS directions on EVV. Is this the CMS guidance?

Karol CDSS: Yes, this is all the information we have seen to date. It is posted on our website and a link is to be added to the notes.

Cindy CICA: There was a consumer at the March 9th meeting who talked about saving her paper timesheets. Have you thought about how this will work for them? How recipients could keep timesheets for themselves?

Karol/Sue CDSS: Yes, we are working on this. Through the Electronic Timesheets portal, we are looking at how they can print the timesheets for their records. It is not complete, but it is being worked on.

Jene McCovey: Wondering what other services/citizens in the US is being targeted like this?

Sue/Karol: We believe just personal care services offered. We do not know of others.

Jene: I understand it is as if we are crooks, fraud prevention, etc.

Sue/Karol CDSS: I can see how you understand this, especially looking at how other states have implemented EVV. This is not what California is doing, it is not our intent for this to be a part of the fraud prevention.

Jene: What are we telling other people what it is for?

Sue/Karol CDSS: We are trying to create a program that meets the Federal requirement that does not infringe on your rights and be least restrictive as possible. In doing this we keep our Federal funding match to provide the services you receive.

Karol CDSS: Encourages folks to look at the CDSS link for information and hope to have the recoding of the last meeting up within a week. Also, it is planned to hold another Stakeholder meeting in April – will let Charlie know the date and get it out to everyone.

CDSS Electronic Visit Verification website:

<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/IHSS/EVV>

EVV Stakeholder Meetings:

<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/IHSS/EVV/StakeholderMeetings>

EVV email to send comments: evv@dss.ca.gov

Mailing: **Electronic Visit Verification, California Department of Social Services**, 744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

EVV Stakeholder Meetings

Upcoming Meeting Information

- **Friday, March 9, 2018**
- 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- CDSS, 744 P St., OB 9, 2nd Floor Auditorium, Sacramento
- Conference Line: 800-288-8975
- [Agenda](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [EVV Stakeholder Engagement Plan](#)
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) EVV PowerPoint Presentation Part I, December 13, 2017 - [PowerPoint](#), [Word](#), [PDF](#)
- CMS EVV PowerPoint Presentation Part II, January 10, 2018 - [PowerPoint](#), [Word](#), [PDF](#)

*Please tell the operator you're calling into the EVV stakeholder meeting.

Previous Meeting Information

- **October 12, 2017**
- Recording
- [Agenda](#)
- CMS PowerPoint Presentation, August 2017 - [PDF](#), [Word](#)
- EVV Request for Information - [Word](#), [PDF](#)

Upland: Individual Agency concerns about the State planning on using?

Sue CDSS: We are trying to implement EVV through a party we already have. For those who do not know, the State sent out a "Request for Information (RFI)" to see what is being offered in the way of EVV. CDSS received 18 responses and they are being looked at as information about future choices. One of the options that we have learned from this is there is an opportunity to build from what we already have under the Electronic Timesheet System.

Karen CAPA: With the new MOE the Public Authorities are down 26% and for FY 18-19 20%. Not going to know exact amount of budget change until the May revised comes out. These cuts in budget will be some counties will need to scale back on staff and services. We have seen in Santa Barbara, Riverside and Los Angeles reduction in staff.

It is hoped that the May revised will bring funding up to levels needed to meet the needs of the Public Authority.

With the hearings, items discussed was left open, no decisions were made as it pertains to IHSS. There was quite a list of items, EVV, Sick Leave, etc. Between now and the May revise there will be talk in the background on different parties to encourage the best outcome for all.

Legislatively there are 10 to 12 bills that affect IHSS. CWDA, UDW, CAPA has one bill for translation of documents [AB 1909](#) - Would clarify that the State Department of Social Services is required to provide translations of written content, as defined, in languages spoken by a substantial number of providers of in-home supportive services. The bill would permit the department to work with counties and the County Welfare Directors Association to repurpose existing, county-produced translations of written content.

[SB 1040](#) - Would expand the definition of “supportive services” to include all needs and services required during a natural disaster resulting in a declared state of emergency, and authorize, under those same circumstances, a county to allocate additional hours of supportive services, as specified. The bill would require a county to use a void and reissue warrant process for any provider who lost or had damaged an uncashed warrant because of a natural disaster resulting in a state of emergency. The bill would require a county, including a city and county, at the next update to its emergency plan, to integrate and require the assessment and provision of supportive services to IHSS recipients. April 10th to be heard, to send sample letter; UDW on sexual abuse, Peer to peer training;

Charlie: 7% cut was discussed during the hearing, what was decided?

Karen: The unions working together are pushing this to remove these statues.

Upland: are you able to send out bills to support? Which hearing are you referring to?

Karen: I can send a list to Charlie around April 3. The hearing will be with the Senate Budget Subcommittee; the Peer to Peer Bill is also at the same day and time April 10th.

Kristine: Do you know of the group that sponsored this peer to peer bill?

Karen: I do not know yet who the sponsor is yet. I will gather information and get to Charlie to get out.

Bonnie: Funding for CICA, thought unions gave funding to CICA to hold Regional Meetings.

Charlie: No, Unions did not subsidize CICA.

Upland: Can you share why there was such a drastic drop?

Karen: This was under Arnold about cutting IHSS and wanting to eliminating Advisory Boards. There was about \$3 million then, but it was reduced to \$5,971 per year.

(Note CB) When a Public Authority claims the State funds they pull the Federal funds at the same time, not separate as I understood.

California Association of Public Authorities keeps a list of bills in the State Legislation being considered, some are markers, some are complete bills, etc. Check here weekly for updates. [Click here](#) for the link.