

**California IHSS Consumer Alliance  
Statewide Call  
November 15, 2017 – 10 a.m.  
1-800-309-2350, pass 10282015#  
Notes**

**Remember, these are just notes. If you need to hear the actual comment, please listen to the recording!**

There were 29 people on the call, name not provided by everyone. Thank you to those who did provide names!

**10:05 a.m. - David Kane, Staff Attorney, Neighborhood Legal Services of L.A. County. He shared information about "Share of Costs." Material attached provided by David!**

David shared a brief overview of the attachments forwarded:

- [Meeting Your Share of Cost](#)
- [250% Working Disabled Medi-Cal Program](#)

Share of cost is figured using your monthly gross income: for a single person if your income is above \$1,235; for a married couple it is \$1,664.

Some strategies for reducing one's Share of Cost.

Cluster your health care into one month to meet the share of cost in one month.

- Combine medical appointments and need for medical costs into one month
- Ask for prescriptions in 90-day supplies
- Keep receipts for all medically purchased supplies
- Unpaid medical bills you are responsible for (Large bills owed can be spread across several months to be paid off and count towards your share of cost obligation)

How to get rid of your share of cost?

- Purchase an insurance policy for dental, vision, and so forth that you can deduct from your gross income. This usually is good if you are only above the threshold by a small amount.

Another one is to get on the 250% Working Disabled Program. Get a small job, suggested getting a job helping a neighbor with their mail, reading, or teaching someone learning English

Health Consumer Alliance 1-888-804-3536 is a free service to call for help

**Joey:** Does it matter which of the 4 IHSS programs one is on, does the Share of Cost work the same? If someone does not pay their share of cost, the provider is out pay. What is the resolution?

**David:** I do not have an answer for your first question, but it is assumed the Share of Cost works the same for all the programs. If you have a more specific case, you can call me at 1-888-804-3536 and we can discuss more specifics.

When workers are not getting paid, what are the grievance procedures? Filing for a State Hearing for getting wages owed because someone is not paying their share of cost. Or, if it involves a Medi-Cal program, one can call their local Managed Care Program to resolve the issue. One can always call our office to get assistance.

**Google Voice:** When you have a share of cost, but it does not say anything about the supplemental insurance on the letter notifying us of the share of Cost. Could we get this information on future letters?

**David:** I do not know of any counties that do this, but it is a good idea. On the back of the NOA or letter there should be information about who to contact if you disagree with the decision with contact information for free legal services.

Suggested if folks would like to see helpful tips on how to reduce your Share of Cost maybe contact your local representatives to get it added to letters and notices.

**NOTE: Suggest this to the State for future notifications - CICA**

**Janie:** Eligibility dollar amount, when did the amount go up?

**David:** They are updated annually. Next time they will be update is April 2018.

**John:** I recently returned to work and would be eligible for the 250% Working disabled Medi-Cal Program. I fall under the child-adult disabled program for disability and under the trail work period. How does this work?

**David:** If someone is eligible for the working program, any income from Social Security is not counted as income. But for those not receiving Social Security of any kind, they count regular income.

**Cindy:** Even if you are a little over the accepted level, why is it so high. Example: If an individual is \$68 over the accepted level of \$1,235, why is the Share of Cost \$600? Should it not be grouped in a range? Setting a rage of levels?

**David:** If you are over by \$1, your share of cost is \$600. You are right, they do not seem to consider the amount you are over.

There have been efforts in the past to change how the share of cost is figured.

It is suggested people need to write their local representation and share information about the share of cost and consider changing how it is calculated. Also, there is an organization call Western Center Law & Poverty is also a good contact and has done work on this in the past.

**NOTE: This should be followed up on (CAPA/DRC/??? Proposed a bill a couple years ago about SOC) – CICA**

**Janie:** How do they figure the amount if you

**David:** Maintenance of Need number is used, and the leftover amount is the amount owed.

It is understood the Western Center on Law & Poverty is working on this.

**Joey:** Is it correct that the maintenance of need is \$600, that is what a person lives on?

**David:** Yes, that is correct, why it is so offensive.

**10:30 a.m. - Karen Keesler, Executive Director of CAPA shared information about CAPA and other information related to the IHSS program**

The state – county financial relationship changed this year. Went from the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) which create a Maintenance of Effort favorable to the counties. In January, Governor Brown decoded he did not like the outcome of the past few years and cancelled the CCI, which cancelled the Maintenance of Effort (MOE).

The California State of Association of Counties have been working with the State to create a new MOE. This agreement has been done and it places more of a cost on the counties in the new MOE.

There is now a hard cap on the ceiling for funds from the state for administration at the county level for IHSS.

IHSS Advisory Committee funding did not change, little amount not included in the decision (for those not knowing, ACs receive \$3,000 from

the State and they can apply for a Federal match of \$2,971 total \$5,971 – use it or lose it).

For both the counties and Public Authorities they are short compared to funding in the past. For the counties they are short over \$30 million in admin funding (11.7%) statewide and the Public Authority is a worse picture being short 26.16%. Being working with others to address the shortage.

Every public authority has started the fiscal year short, and because the agreement was made so late, the 26% shortfall is going to have to be absorbed over the next 6 months. It is expected that there could be lay-offs and it could result in slower service.

There is training being offered to Counties to understand the MOE new guidelines and how to work with wages. There are some counties that may not feel the effects, yet there are others that may. It will depend on the counties willingness to fund the shortfalls using general funds or not in larger counties.

There are 22 counties currently involved in collective bargaining. Out of 58 counties, 46 have responded. 22 is the highest number of counties involved in collective bargaining ever experienced at the same time.

**Cindy:** Why wasn't there some sort of safety net if the CCI did not work? Isn't there some sort of minimum for the county staffing they should have?

**Karen:** They have timelines for meeting regulations for individuals to be signed up for the programs. An example of this not being done is through news reports aired on Bay Area News about individuals taking a year to 18 months to sign up for IHSS.

There seems to have been a big misunderstanding on how the past MOE was to be used. (Listen to the recording here)

The county is working with the State in filling needed positions to meet the needs of the program, but this seems unlikely. **Recap of statement: Has anyone ever seen a requested budget submitted to meet the needs and have it fully funded?** (listen to the recording for detail)

Public Authorities are in big trouble.

**Joey:** Who decides the creative way to do backfill or cuts? What does the percentages equal to in dollar amounts? What is the administration amount, remember a while back I was told by Will Lightbourne is was only 6%?

**Karen:** \$287 million for county administration last year, this year they received \$255 million coming to 11.37% less. The overall program is \$11 billion. Will could be right and the 6% could have been high regarding \$

Public Authorities last year received \$25.2 million, this year they received \$18.6 million leaving a shortfall of 26.16%.

In terms on who makes decisions on where the cuts will be made, each county is different. Some the PAs work with County Administrative Officers, some work with the Board of Supervisors. As noted earlier, some counties will back-fill, but many do not have this ability.

**Paula:** Years ago, ILC coordinated the registers for providers. Is there a chance to do this again?

Concern expressed about unnecessary paperwork and extended time to sign people up. Expressed concerns about EVV and need for cutting back on paperwork. Visiting clients yearly when nothing has changed is a waste of time, why not do this every 18 months?

**Karen:** The 18 months idea was done in 2009. There are a lot of changes happening and with the cuts to both the county and PA the work you described will be more difficult – (listen to the recording to get the jest of the comment).

**Tami:** They gave massive amounts

**Karen:** There use to be \$10 million given to DAs, but this has been stopped, I believe it was in 2011 or 2012 when Brown was put in office.

**Joey:** There is just too much paperwork (Paula noted this in her comments), is there a way to cut the paperwork back?

**Karen:** There is a yes and no answer to this. To lessen the forms, it would still not happen to equal the shortfall of the budget to the program.