



The Consumer & Provider Connection



A publication of the Yolo County IHSS Advisory Committee

Winter 2015 Issue

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Guest Editorial

*To observe the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we asked Albert "Bud" Sayles * for permission to reprint his editorial in the San Diego County Public Authority Newsletter*

Reprinted from their Summer 2015 issue:

Dear Readers,

July 2015 marked the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This landmark federal legislation expanded the rights of people with disabilities, changed building codes and regulations, made public transportation accessible, opened the doors to employment wider, and much more. I remember the days before curb cuts when I had to drive my wheelchair in the street for long distances. Public Transportation wasn't accessible so there was no way for a wheelchair user to ride busses. There were no accessible taxis. I would try to go to restaurants and many times encountered steps, narrow doorways, and inaccessible restrooms.

The ADA was not perfect. There were no "ADA police" and so many building owners didn't abide by the ADA law and didn't make their buildings accessible. It didn't take long for some people with disabilities to begin to take building owners to court to fight for access. This practice was not popular with building owners and organizations that supported them. Laws have actually been passed to weaken ADA access laws.

I have been using a wheelchair for 44 years so I feel very blessed that the ADA passed and has made life so much easier for me and for millions of others with disabilities. We must continue to preserve and protect access requirements in the ADA.

Respectfully,

Albert "Bud" Sayles

* Bud Sayles has been Executive Director of IHSS Public Authority for 14 years and has been a spinal-cord injured quadriplegic for over 24 years. He announced that he will retire at the end of December 2015.

The Yolo County IHSS Advisory Committee

The Yolo County In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority was established by the Board of Supervisors, acting as the Governing Board, in 2001 to meet the mandates of what was then a new state law: AB 1682.

The functions of the Public Authority under the law are:

- Provide assistance to IHSS recipients/consumers in finding a home care worker through the services of a registry;
- Investigate the qualifications and background of potential providers;
- Establish a referral system under which in-home supportive services providers shall be referred to recipients;
- Arrange training for providers and recipients;
- Perform any other functions related to the delivery of in-home supportive services; and
- Act as the Employer of Record for collective bargaining for IHSS providers.

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Advisory Committee members are appointed by the Yolo County Governing Board. The law requires eleven (11) rotating members.

The categories of membership are;

- (1) six (6) consumer members who shall be current residents of Yolo County and who are current or past users of personal assistance services paid for through public or private funds or recipients of IHSS;
- (2) two (2) individuals who represent community based organizations that advocate for people with disabilities or seniors;
- (3) one (1) county employee;
- (4) two (2) IHSS providers.

The IHSS Advisory Committee meets on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month. Committee members discuss issues that effect IHSS consumers, providers and other interested parties. All meetings are open to the Public. Frances Gracechild, Chair of the Advisory Committee, invites readers to come to a meeting and join the discussions.

The following are four fast facts about each of the current members of the Yolo IHSS Advisory Committee:

Sheila Allen, County Employee

- I am the Executive Director of the Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance, a local non-profit that strives to be the unified voice for older adults in Yolo County and promotes the well being of older adults through Education, Collaboration and Advocacy.
- I am a registered nurse with over 20 years of home care experience.
- I have a PhD in Nursing and studied the positive effects of assuring that persons in their home receive all the support services they need.
- I am working with other core partners to start the Yolo Center for Healthy Aging to create a “one-stop shop” to get information and education about aging and to be connected to services.

Mary Helen Uribe, former provider

- I live at Margaret McDowell Manor in West Sacramento.
- I was a CNA caregiver for 30 years; I retired at 74 years of age.
- I took care of my sister for two years until she passed away.
- I am very active where I live and now I am on the Advisory Committee.

Ellen Berman Edwards, Advocate for Seniors

- I enjoy working with seniors and helping them access community resources.
- I love to drink Peet's coffee with a blueberry white chocolate chip scone on a cold winter day.
- I love to exercise, dance, take day trips, and hike with my husband.
- My favorite movies are Pride and Prejudice and Xanadu.

Winifred (Freddie) deAnda, IHSS Consumer

- I am very glad to serve on the Advisory Committee because I think it is an important body.
- I try to be as kind to as many people as possible.
- I am always interested in learning new things
- I am careful to check my facts before telling somebody else what I know.

Johanne Lewis, IHSS Former Provider

- I was an IHSS provider for over 30 years.
- I worked for the Stanford Children's Home way back in the 70's.
- I'm the mother of six kids, all now grown up.
- I'm going to be 84 this year.
- I learn something every time I go to the Advisory Committee and I get to tell about some of the things I have done.

Marcelo (Nunie) Matta, IHSS Consumer

- My purpose is to do what I can to help others.
- I strive to stay focused on the positives of life.
- I never stop trying to learn.
- I try to always tell my friends and family how much they mean to me and how grateful I am for their kindness, love, and support.

Steve Streeter, IHSS Provider

- I am married to Nancy Jones Streeter, an advocate, singer, and actor; currently in "Into the Woods" at Davis Musical Theatre Company.
- My son Nathan is a videographer who uses his speech device, a team of facilitators and digital camera gear from Davis Media Access to make short films.
- I have lived in California for forty plus years; first in Redding, followed by San Jose, later in Oroville, then to Poway and in Davis since 2001.
- My favorite sport is tennis.

Brad Toy, IHSS Consumer

- I am very happy that I was appointed to the IHSS Advisory Committee.
- My goal is to expand my role as an advocate for disability rights.
- I am now enrolled in both Sacramento City College and American River College in gerontology and paralegal studies.
- I hope to be of service to others in the future.

John Gillespie, IHSS Consumer

- I am a 57 year old male.
- I live with AIDS, prostate cancer, congestive heart failure, and a good sense of humor.
- I have received In-Home Supportive Services for 10 years.
- I am the past president of the Ryan White HIV Planning Commission for the Yolo County Health Department. I hope to become instrumental in improving service delivery that shows Yolo County can lead the state in this most necessary service to its residents.



WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

November 4, 2015

Statement regarding federal regulations that require the payment of overtime wages for certain home care workers

Due to recent court action, California is moving ahead to meet federal regulations that require the payment of overtime wages for certain home care workers who work more than forty hours in a workweek. These workers in California include providers of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), waiver personal care services, and certain assistive services for developmentally disabled individuals. State law provides mechanisms for payments and establishes caps on the number of hours that a provider may work within a given workweek.

Following consultation with consumer advocates and unions representing providers, the Administration is moving forward on a variety of activities that together will enable the payment of overtime wages in biweekly payrolls beginning on February 1, 2016. These activities include:

- Updating the timesheets used in these programs to enable the capture of hours worked in excess of forty hours per workweek
- Training the State's nearly 400,000 service providers and 500,000 home care services recipients in how to fill out and approve the new timesheets,
- Implementing workweek agreements for providers serving multiple consumers,
- Preparing county staff to assist with workweek agreements and resolve timesheet errors,
- Finalizing changes to the automated case management and payroll system to enable overtime payments, and
- Adding a new IHSS service category for accompaniment to medical appointments, and enabling payment for travel incurred while serving multiple recipients on the same day.

In addition to the activities above, recipients and providers will be notified of associated program changes in advance of the February 1 date, to allow time for them to identify additional service providers if necessary. As many providers serve and are paid in more than one program under the home care service system, all programs will commence regular payment of overtime and travel on February 1, 2016.

The State is committed to moving forward expeditiously on these activities, in a manner that is safe for consumers, fair to providers, and minimizes disruption to the paychecks upon which so many Californians depend.

The Public Authority Has New Offices

As part of the reorganization of Health and Human Services in Yolo County, the Public Authority now has offices on the second floor of the Bauer Building, 137 N. Cottonwood Street in Woodland.

The telephone number has not changed – 530-661-2676.
The mailing address, 25 N. Cottonwood, Woodland, has not changed.

If you need to meet with one of the Public Authority staff, please call ahead.



A Workshop about - What is Alzheimer's/Dementia? The Do's and Don'ts for communication, task sequencing and more will be covered

Training Sessions on Dementia/Alzheimer's will be offered to by Cindy Unger, Comfort Keepers, to IHSS providers on the following dates:

December 18, 1:30 – 3:30 in the Community Room, 500A Jefferson, West Sacramento

December 21, 1:30 – 3:30 in the Clarksburg Room, 25 N. Cottonwood, Woodland

Contact Olesya at the Public Authority, 530-661-2676, to register for the training on the date you prefer.
Space is limited so call right away to be sure you are accepted.
We need your name, phone number and address.

Please do not bring anyone else.
Providers who arrive on time and stay to the end will receive a \$25 stipend.



The Public Authority launched **Home Care NOW** (HCN) in 2009 to meet the consumer's need for a replacement worker immediately when their regular provider is suddenly unable to come to work. The program avoids the potential need for emergency room services, or hospitalization, if the IHSS consumer is without a provider. All HCN providers have agreed to respond to a request within two hours. They receive a \$20 stipend and mileage from their home to the home of the consumer when they arrive on time. Providers must have a minimum of two years home care experience, have successfully passed a criminal background check, a TB test, and have completed Red Cross First Aid/CPR training. The need for this service has grown over the years and Paula Gonzalez, **Home Care NOW** coordinator, is looking for experienced IHSS providers to add few hours of work to their existing schedule. If you are interested in participating, contact her at 530-661-2676.