

In-Home Supportive Services Task Force  
Meeting Minutes  
IHSS Rancho Office  
April 15, 2010

By: Michelle Cooper – District Attorney's Office

**Members Present:** Jeff Rose, District Attorney's Office; Bernadette Lynch, DHHS Senior and Adult Services; William Geiger IV, IHSS Provider; Anne Isreal-Connolly, Area 4 Agency on Aging; Deidre Kolodney, EDRT; John Marvich, IHSS Consumer; Carolyn Rose, IHSS Advisory Committee; Rick Simonson, IHSS Public Authority; Cordia Wade, Adult and Aging Commission

**Also In attendance:** Michelle Cooper, District Attorney's Office; Rosalind Garner, DHHS Senior and Adult Services;

**Introduction:** Bernadette Lynch and Jeff Rose chaired the meeting. Jeff reminded the members that they are guided by the Comfort Agreement. The members reviewed the March minutes. Corrections to the minutes were submitted by Rick Simonsen and added to the minutes prior to the meeting. They are listed in italics on the March minutes. Cordia offered changes to the minutes under "Background Checks", adding "to a family member" to the fifth and sixth bullet points. A motion was made to accept the minutes as they were corrected. The motion was seconded and the minutes were accepted.

Cordia asked for clarification of "no information kit (operational issues)" listed under the Quality of Care/Self-Direction of Support section of the March minutes. William and Bernadette clarified that an informational kit is considered part of the operation of IHSS and would not be necessary for the recipients.

**IHSS Report back to Board of Supervisors:** Jeff announced that if the proposal is completed in May, then the presentation to the Board of Supervisors will be made in June. Jeff is going to have Sue Elliot of the District Attorney's Office work on getting the date for the presentation. Jeff is currently working on the introduction, summary, Background Checks and Mandatory Training portions of the proposal. Bernadette is working on the Quality of Care and Self-Direction of Support portions of the proposal. If a draft of the full proposal is completed by May, it will be submitted to the members prior to the May meeting for review and final discussion at the May meeting.

**Group Discussion of Workgroup Recommendations:**

**Background Checks:** The members discussed recommendation for "Background Checks". Jeff stated that the Task Force is waiting for an Opinion from County Counsel to determine if there is any legal basis to have a local standard that deviates from the standards set in a state program regulated by statute.

Recommendations:

- All new providers coming into the IHSS program must complete a background check.
- Recommend that the Board of Supervisors seek legislation to direct the Department of Justice to provide information on subsequent convictions to the Public Authority.

There was lengthy discussion, but no consensus, on the following issues regarding Background Checks:

1. Should there be an additional probationary period for providers convicted of felonies and misdemeanors other than the current disqualifying crimes or "Serious Crimes" listed in PC 1192.7(c)
3. If there is a probationary period should it be different for family-member providers vs. non-family providers
3. In the absence of a probationary period, should there be full disclosure of criminal history of the provider to the recipient
4. Probationary period with full disclosure

Jeff recommended that in the absence of a consensus, it should be noted in the proposal that there was discussion but no agreement on the above-mentioned issues.

The members discussed how to define "family member" and who has the legal obligation to care for someone and who does not. It was agreed that there should be a broad definition.

Deidre reminded the members that the priority of task force is the IHSS recipient, not people who may become IHSS providers.

**Mandatory Training:** Cordia asked if there could be a preclusion of core training requirements for people who have medical training prior to becoming an IHSS provider. The group agreed that there are aspects of the initial training that everyone who wants to be a provider should have such as time card training, ethics etc... Bernadette reminded the group that the recommendation for core training included classes on: disability rights; consumer choice and self-direction; workplace safety; nutrition/hydration and exercise; ethics; mandated reporting; setting boundaries; professionalism; stress management and personal care.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2010.