



CICA California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance

State Wide Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, March 18, 2009
Via Conference Call

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Janie Whiteford at 10:06AM.

2. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present

Shirley Adams, Orange County
Heidi Aharonian, Orange County
Cindy Calderon, Humboldt County
Felice Connolly, Riverside County
Tim Cooper, Placer County
Patricia Cornell, Mendocino County
Paul DeMange, Contra Costa County
Alex Ivanoski, El Dorado County
Jenilyn Jimenez, San Diego County
Kristine Loomis, Riverside County
Herby Meyers, Marin County
Christina Mills, CFILC
Anita Olivas, Imperial County
Chris Otero, Los Angeles County
William Reed, Placer County
Andy Rossoff, Mendocino County
Mary Tucker, Nevada County
Janie Whiteford, Santa Clara County
Lawrence Zynda, San Diego County

CICA Support Staff

Amy Terhorst, CICA Administration

CAPA Liaison

Bernadette Lynch, CAPA President

3. STATEWIDE BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Karen Keeslar was not able to be on the call but sent in the following report:

“On the \$10 billion trigger: I listened to the hearing yesterday that the Treasurer and Director of Finance held. It really doesn’t sound like they will certify that the state will get the \$10 billion in general fund saving from the federal economic stimulus money to prevent the cuts from going into effect on July 1. California will be getting something like \$32 billion – but at least \$10

billion has to produce general fund savings in order to prevent the IHSS cuts (as well as elimination of Medi-Cal optional benefits and a reduction in the SSI/SSP grant) from taking place. The cuts to IHSS are: (1) roll back of state sharing in wages to \$9.50 per hour plus \$.60 for health benefits as of July 1, 2009; and (2) elimination of the share-of-cost buyout for any new IHSS consumer that enters the program after July 1, 2009.

There will be another hearing of the Treasurer and Director of Finance on March 27th where the final decision/certification will take place. I think we should prepare for the worst by assuming the cuts will go into effect and start lobbying to get the law changed that imposes the cuts. The coalition will talk about that tomorrow.

The Senate Outcomes & Oversight report is out. They haven't posted the link yet to download the report, but it should be posted later today and I will get it to you. The hearing of the Senate Human Services Committee on the Senate Outcomes & Oversight study is next Tuesday, March 24th."

Herb Meyer added that the Treasurer and the head of the Department of Finance attended the March 17 hearing. The room was full of many representatives from union and consumer groups. The Treasurer repeated that he is not in a position to change legislation, but was here to try to come up with a number and they are dealing with \$8 billion of the \$10 billion. He said that he thinks there is some flexibility and he will work very hard to try to fill in the gap between the \$8 billion and the \$10 billion.

Janie Whiteford asked Christine Mills about the bills that the CFILC is following. Christine said that CFILC is co-sponsoring AB1608 to move traumatic brain injury funding from the Department of Mental Health to the Department of Rehabilitation. They are also tracking AB1269. The CFILC website has a legislative perspective on the main page (www.cfilc.org).

4. REPORT ON IHSS COALITION MEETING WITH STEVE COONEY, CHIEF DEPUTY TREASURER

Janie Whiteford reported that the IHSS Coalition spoke with Steve Cooney on March 11. He repeated the same thing that was said at the hearing. The only other issue that he raised was the timing of the money coming in from the Feds.

5. CAPA REPORT

Janie Whiteford reported that we have added a new item to the monthly statewide call agenda which is a report from CAPA. Eldon Luce (CAPA's representative to CICA) was unable to be on the call. Bernadette Lynch reported in his stead. She reported that CAPA is tracking legislative trigger language and sending letters to congressional representatives to see if they can do something to mitigate funding. CAPA is also concerned about new the new provider enrollment form and they are in contact with CDWA to try to get it modified. CAPA's third focus is on the stimulus package which provides for 65% subsidy for COBRA payments. CAPA is trying to figure out how Public Authorities can get paid for this. Legislatively, CAPA has just started looking at bills. One of interest is about developing training standards (AB378). Two bills are targeted as "spot bills" – AB1532 and SB791 – which are around "improving IHSS".

6. CICA WEBSITE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Amy Terhorst reported that the RFP for the CICA website has been distributed and is available on the current CICA website. Please distribute through your circles for response.

7. REGIONAL MEETINGS UPDATE

Northern Region – Cindy Calderon reported that the Northern Regional Training will take place on June 9 at the Redding Library. If you are interested in attending, please contact Cindy.

Southern Region – Shirley Adams reported that she is working with John Stevenson to put the regional meeting together. Kristine Loomis volunteered to assist Shirley in this regard. Shirley and Kristine will get in touch with each other for the planning. Lawrence Zynda reported that the UDW has agreed to help with transporting people to the training and providing food.

Central Region – Herb Meyer reported that he is still working on putting the Central Regional Meeting together. Janie and Herb will get together on this item.

Mountain/Valley Region – No representative on the call.

8. CAPITOL ACTION DAY (May 26 & 27)

Janie Whiteford reminded everyone that Capitol Action Day is May 27 this year at the Capitol. Christine Mills reported that this is the 6th year of the event. CICA is sponsoring an educational forum for the first time on May 26 and as a part of Capitol Action Day itself. CICA will not be organizing rooms or meals, but will send out resources. Christina reported that there is more information on the website at www.disabilityactioncoalition.org. Registration is open and scholarship funds for traveling will be posted. Get in touch with your local system change advocate at the local ILC for transportation assistance, if needed. People need to register for the training on May 26 as space is limited.

9. “TAKE THE DARE, SHOW YOU CARE”

This initiative is a challenge to all state legislators to walk a day in the shoes of an IHSS consumer and/or provider. Many consumer profiles have been received. If you are interested in inviting a legislator to your home, email Amy or Janie for a consumer profile. Fill out the profile and send it to the CFILC for coordination and matching. The initiative is currently on hold because of the heavy focus on IHSS cuts. Christina reported that they have received many profiles from Eureka and still need some from the Inland Empire, San Diego, and Sacramento.

10. NEW MEMBERS

Janie Whiteford reported the Calaveras County and Kings County have now joined CICA. Welcome new members!

11. PROVIDER ENROLLMENT FORM – ADVISORY COMMITTEE POTENTIAL ACTION ITEM

CDSS and the Department of Health have issued a draft of a new Provider Enrollment Form which will be required of all IHSS providers before getting paid for services. Janie Whiteford reported that CICA is very concerned about this item. The form is long and complex and must be signed off by a social worker and submitted prior to the provider being paid. CICA has

written a letter to the state about concerns with the form. Santa Clara County Advisory Committee also sent in their own letter to the state. Janie urged Advisory Committee members to take the form (sent via email) to your Advisory Committee, review, and consider writing to the DSS and DHS with your own concerns. Bernadette Lynch reported that CAPA is concerned with the length of the form, the language level, the requirement to have a copy of the provider's social security card, and that it's unclear whether or not the provider has to have a form for each client or just one for the provider. These forms are part of the medical system and are usually filled out by doctors, dentists, etc. CAPA is working on getting the state to understand that IHSS providers are in a different classification. The next step is to report to DSS and DHHS your thoughts on the form.

12. COUNTY HAPPENINGS

Felice Connelly reported that Riverside County has received information regarding a CCA teleconference in their area. If you are interested in hosting a CCA call on your area, get in touch with Christina Mills at the CFILC and she can send you the appropriate information. You need to have at least 15 people in one place to host a teleconference. Over 60 sites across the country are currently hosting calls.

Patricia Cornell reported that she spoke at the rally on March 17 and gave testimony regarding how IHSS cuts would affect her as a provider.

13. ADJOURNEMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:10AM. The next regularly scheduled CICA statewide meeting will take place Wednesday, April 15 at 10:00AM.

Submitted by Amy Terhorst