State Wide Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 20, 2009
Via Conference Call

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Janie Whiteford at 10:05AM.

2. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present
Shirley Adams, Orange County
Mike Boyd, San Francisco County
Cindy Calderon, Humboldt County
Felice Connolly, Riverside County
Tracy Harrell, Tulare County
Jane Kardas, Mendocino County
Bonnie Mello, Santa Clara County
Richard Rangel, Monterey County
Michelle Rousey, Alameda County
Shirley Stacey, Solano County
Sandy Varga, Los Angeles County
Janie Whiteford, Santa Clara County
Lawrence Zynda, San Diego County

CICA Support Staff
Amy Terhorst, CICA Administration

CAPA Liaison

Guests
Karen Keeslar, UDW Legislative Consultant
John Stansbury, CICA Consultant

3. BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Karen Keeslar reported regarding state budget cuts affecting the IHSS program. Domestic and related services for people with functional index ranks below four will be eliminated. If you have a functional index of three on meal prep, you would lose meal prep. If you have a functional index of four or above on laundry, you would keep laundry. This results in a cut of $40.8M. Share of cost buyout for consumers with functional index score below four will be eliminated resulting in a savings of $38.2M. This is anticipated to affect about 8,400 consumers. Share of cost for any new consumers will be eliminated as well. State share of wages will be cut to $8 and $.60 for benefits. An anticipated savings of $301.5B will take place under cut titled IHSS Cost Containment. There will be no change for anyone above a four in combined functional index score. Anyone below a 2.9 functional index score loses eligibility. People in between lose all domestic and related services and only get personal care services.

The last cut is an anti fraud initiative. This is supposed to save $15.8M. Karen did not have a lot of details. The Department of Health & Human Services will get additional number of fraud investigators. Counties will be given a "bounty" for IHSS fraud they are successful in prosecuting and they will get a share of "reward". Criminal background checks will be provided for all non-relative providers. If the check reveals that there has been conviction for certain types of crimes, those people will not be able to be workers. Combination is about $500M of state funds. Karen did not have the number of people that will be kept out of program under Cost Containment, but it will be a lot. Speaker Bass announced a special sub committee starting tomorrow. Public testimony will be happening after Memorial Day. Karen said that morale around the capitol is very low. She does not have a sense for how many cuts can be prevented from happening. SEIU petitioned the Obama Administration that wage cuts violated economic stimulus rules. The Obama Administration has agreed with Governor saying that cuts can be implemented without losing the federal money. Karen said it is essential that people going to Capitol Action Day and not hold back. Legislators need to know what the impact of these cuts will be. Karen said to expect the worst. The legislature is very committed to not raising taxes. Janie encouraged everyone to talk about this issue at Advisory Committee meetings and to get involved with writing letters and making phone calls to legislators. Consumers need to know what is going to happen with these cuts.

4. IHSS FRAUD DISCUSSION

Janie Whiteford reported that there has been a lot of information in the papers recently about IHSS fraud. Part of the Governors budget package is fraud related. Janie suggested that everyone go to their counties and ask the Quality Assurance person to have a discussion with the Advisory Committee about fraud in your county, including what it looks like and how much there is. Fraud needs to be validated and quantified per county. There are currently no hard numbers. Karen agreed that Advisory Committees should meet with Quality Assurance staff and get statistics in each county. Janie reported that Santa Clara county Advisory Committee met with their Quality Assurance person and it was incredibly informative. They asked how many cases had been prosecuted, what's the savings, how much has been recouped back into the budget, what is considered fraud, etc. The Quality Assurance person said that there used to be very little support for fraud in the state. Now the Department of Justice is much more involved and willing be taking cases forward. We need to acknowledge that it exists, but be realistic and factual about it. Bonnie Mello related an example of fraud being any provider that claims over 300 hours of work per month is red flagged as fraud. Janie will send the list of questions asked of the Santa Clara County Quality Assurance person for distribution.

5. CICA STATEWIDE CONFERENCE – CALL FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Amy and Janie reported that a planning committee is being formed for the January CICA conference and asked for volunteers to participate. The time commitment will be approximately four meetings via conference call prior to the conference plus any work involved in the session being planned by the volunteer. Michelle Rousey, Sandy Varga, Mike Boyd, and Tracy Harrell volunteered to be on the committee.

6. REGIONAL MEETINGS UPDATE

a. Northern Region - *Cindy Calderon*

Cindy reported that the meeting will take place June 9 in Redding at the Redding Library. Evan LeVange will be presenting as well as other regional presenters.

b. Southern Region - *Shirley Adams*

The Southern meeting was held in May with three guest speakers plus union representation. There was a speaker on Fraud, stem cell research, and Los Angeles social services. There was very good interaction and team building.

c. Central Region - *Herb Meyer*

Michele Rousey reported that the training will take place July 31 in Alameda County in Oakland.

d. Mountain Valley - *Tracy Harrel*

Tracy reported that she is working on putting together the planning committee with a target for the meeting to take place in June. Janie will get in touch with Tracy to assist in planning the meeting.

7. DISABILITY CAPITOL ACTION DAY

Janie reported that Capitol Action Day is taking place Wednesday, May 27 from 10AM to 12:30 on the Capitol steps. The day includes a march and speaking program. Louis Carter, plaintiff on Olmstead, will be there. Wes Chesbro will be a legislative speaking, among four to five others. Several of the people coming to speak have come out of long institutional stays. This is the ten year anniversary of Olmstead decision and a lot of the speakers will be focusing on Olmstead.

Christina Mills reported that the march begins at 10AM at US Bank building on 6th Street between capitol mall and L Street. Buses will be unloading on 6th Street and picking up on 10th Street. Paratransit will also be running. Buses will be running from 8:30 to 10AM.

If you would like lunch, you need to register on www.disabilityactioncoalition.org website to receive a lunch ticket on site. Since we don't know if there will be public hearings or not, we will be taking stories from people via video cameras on site to tape stories. Clips will then be posted on the website. The Road to Freedom Tour Bus will be parked either on the Capitol grounds or on 10th street in front of Capitol. Janie reported that people will be making legislative visits after the program. Christina will have talking points available on site. They are also posted on the website www.disabilityactioncoalition.org in draft form.

8. CICA LEGISLATIVE TRAINING

There is a limited number of spots still available for the CICA sponsored Legislative Training Day on May 26. Please register at www.disabilityactioncoalition.org.

9. WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Janie reported that we are pleased to welcome Butte County as new member.

If you would like a presentation made to your Advisory Committee about CICA or what CICA is currently involved in, please contact Janie.

10. COUNTY HAPPENINGS

The minutes for County Happenings to be included in next month's meeting minutes.

11. ADJOURNEMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:00AM. The next regularly scheduled CICA statewide meeting will take place Wednesday, June 17 at 10:00AM.

Submitted by Amy Terhorst