



PASC Governing Board Meeting Minutes June 2, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mr. Adler called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm. Mr. Castano called the roll:

Members present: Mr. Adler, Ms. Argenta, Ms. Becker Kennedy, Mr. Castano, Mr. Davila-Castro, Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury, Mr. Magady, Ms. Navarro, Ms. Otero, Mr. Vasquez

Members absent: Ms. Belton, Ms. Park

II. READING OF MISSION STATEMENT AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

The mission statement was read by Mr. Vasquez.

Mr. Adler asked that the moment of silence be observed for Ms. Belton, who has been injured, and for Mr. Tanaka, who recently passed away.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sandy Chu reported that she has completed her legislative visits regarding the May Revise, and would like to continue to work with Board members to oppose the Governor's proposals.

Sandy Varga reported that she has had difficulty accessing past minutes on PASC's website, and expressed her concern that this may violate the Brown Act.

Ms. Varga also reported that she traveled to Sacramento to hear comments from the Governor's deputy; she encouraged PASC to inform all consumers about the possible impact of the Governor's proposal. Ms. Varga reported that she has spoken with knowledgeable community activists who have misinformation about the May Revise.

IV. APPROVAL OF MAY 5, 2008 MINUTES

Approved on motion of Mr. Castano, seconded by Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury, by consensus.

V. MISSION MOMENTS

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Osterhout distributed copies of letters written to the Administration by himself and by CAPA regarding the budget. Both letters were also sent to all members of the legislature.

Mr. Osterhout also distributed copies of PASC's updated medical study report.

VIII. APRIL 2008 FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Argenta presented the April financial report. **Report approved on motion of Mr. Castano, seconded by Ms. Becker Kennedy, by consensus.**

Simon Golledge, Assistant Director, Finance and Technology, reported that he has not yet received data on interest income from the County Treasurer; this income will be reported at next month's meeting.

IX. CONSUMER NEEDS

X. DPSS REPORT

Naomi Tostado-Hernández reported that a manager has been sent to the CAT offices to investigate late payment issues; his report will be completed by mid-July, and will be shared with the Board.

In response to Mr. Adler's concern at last month's meeting, management will be tracking requests for hospital assessments on a monthly basis.

Ms. Tostado-Hernández distributed information on functional rank and functional index, and provided an explanation of each term and how these are assessed. It is unclear whether the Governor's proposed changes would be based on the functional rank and/or functional index.

Ms. Tostado-Hernández reported that the CMIPS handbook contains no explanation or definition of the functional index. Mr. Adler asked Ms. Tostado-Hernández to urgently send a letter requesting this information. Mr. Adler also asked for information on the percentage of the LA County caseload at each level of functional index.

In response to a question from Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury, Ms. Tostado-Hernández confirmed that a consumer can determine his/her functional index only from his/her social worker. **Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury asked that the information requested by Mr. Adler include a breakdown of tasks and index by office.**

Mr. Price responded that DPSS will do its best to provide this information, but must factor in workload and cannot make a firm commitment.

In response to a question from Mr. Davila-Castro, Ms. Tostado-Hernández confirmed that functional ranks will remain the same.

Wendy Feldman, Assistant Director, Programs, clarified that the functional index relates to consumers who have share of cost; consumers with a functional index of three or lower would be required to absorb the difference between the two shares of cost. The functional rank would be used to look at domestic services; Ms. Tostado-Hernández confirmed that a consumer with a functional rank of three or lower would have hours reduced. Ms. Feldman emphasized that functional ranks will be looked at individually by task.

Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury responded that there is much confusion about the specifics of the proposal, and that CDSS is unclear on how this would be computed.

Ms. Varga reported that she heard directly from the Governor's deputy that consumers with a functional index of four or below would lose all personal care and domestic care, and that the state would not pick up share of cost.

Ms. Tostado-Hernández responded that only domestic and related services would be reduced: cleaning, laundry, shopping/errands, and meal preparation. Personal care hours would not be affected.

In response to a question from Mr. Magady, Ms. Tostado-Hernández clarified the current relationship between the Medi-Cal and IHSS shares of cost; the consumer would be required to pay the higher share of cost.

In response to a question from Ms. Navarro, Mr. Osterhout reported that Eva Lopez has stated that most of the proposals came from CDSS.

Ms. Becker Kennedy suggested that PASC prepare an Olmstead injunction; Ms. Navarro agreed.

XI. PASC ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES

Ms. Feldman reported that PASC has purchased equipment used for lifting and transferring, and will be developing hands-on provider trainings in this area.

1. LATE PAYMENTS TO PROVIDERS

2. CONSUMER PROGRAMS

a. CONSUMER FORUM

Ms. Feldman reported that bimonthly teleconferences, focusing on legislative issues, have been suggested in addition to Consumer Forums. A PASC-ILC teleconference will be held on June 4th; consumers can attend the teleconference at an ILC, and most ILCs have indicated that they will participate. PASC will subsequently partner with UCP, AbilityFirst, and other organizations to build participation. **Mr. Adler asked Ms. Feldman to send information on the teleconference to all Board members.**

Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury reported that approximately 100 LA County consumers have written personal stories on how they will be affected by the budget proposals.

Ms. Becker Kennedy reported that Marty Omoto publicizes his monthly teleconference to 85,000 individuals and organizations. Mr. Adler suggested that PASC request Mr. Omoto's LA County list; Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury responded that she has contacted him.

Ms. Becker Kennedy suggested that the Union phone all providers to communicate with consumers.

Mr. Adler suggested that the Governor be invited to spend a day working as an IHSS provider. Mr. Adler also suggested researching arrangements made for providers during the Special Olympics.

Ms. Feldman reported that the average cost for an IHSS consumer to remain in his/her home is \$10,000 per year; the average cost for a skilled nursing facility is \$60,000 per year.

Ms. Becker Kennedy suggested that PASC hold a press conference with a Special Olympian; Mr. Adler responded that PASC could assist another organization to do this.

Ms. Varga stressed that the Consumer Forums should be bidirectional; PASC has a duty to go to consumers and hear their voices face to face, and to accurately notify consumers of their current and future situations.

Ms. Varga reported that the cost of a nursing home stay in San Francisco is \$100,000 per year; the cost in Los Angeles is \$80,000 per year. Ms. Varga reported on errors made in medication given to her during her previous stay in a nursing home.

Ms. Navarro suggested that PASC provide a telephone infoline with updated budget information for consumers; Ms. Becker Kennedy agreed.

Ms. Becker Kennedy suggested that PASC hold a press conference with an ACLU attorney regarding patient dumping, nursing home costs, and Olmstead rights.

In response to a question from Mr. Castano, Ms. Varga clarified that the California costs she reported were obtained through Google; Ms. Feldman reported that the costs she reported were federal costs obtained from the Legislative Analyst's Office.

b. ANTELOPE VALLEY OUTREACH

Ms. Feldman reported that PASC is continuing monthly outreach in the Antelope Valley; two PASC staff members recently met with 26 prospective IHSS consumers. Ms. Feldman and Beau Hennemann, Supervisor, Programs and Public Relations, recently met with a group of representatives from the Psychiatric Emergency Team and Adult Protective Services.

c. PARTNERS IN CARE

Ms. Feldman reported Partners in Care's program to teach low-income seniors to exercise in their homes. PASC hopes to obtain a collaborative grant to introduce this program to the IHSS population. Partners in Care's followup shows that participants fall far less frequently.

Ms. Argenta expressed her support for this program; Ms. Becker Kennedy agreed that this program should be listed in the Resource Guide, but emphasized that the most urgent issues confronting consumers should take priority for staff time. Ms. Feldman responded that this program was brought up by the Board as a priority approximately six-eight months ago; other Board members concurred, and Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury added that a Board committee was formed from this concern.

Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury emphasized PASC's responsibility to potential IHSS consumers; this program can help PASC outreach to this population.

Ms. Feldman invited Board members to attend PASC's meetings on this program; Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury asked to attend.

Ms. Navarro asked how this program will translate to consumers receiving more IHSS hours for assistance with exercise. Ms. Feldman responded that IHSS pays for exercise to improve, not to maintain, function.

3. BACK-UP PROGRAM

Mr. Hennemann distributed a report of Back-up Program activity. Mr. Hennemann noted that, in response to Board concerns at last month's meeting, monthly averages have been added, as well as a chart of requests per month.

Mr. Hennemann also noted that providers have been added to the program, as a result of trainings held in May; total number of Back-up providers is now 110.

4. REGISTRY AND OUTREACH

5. POSTAL RATE APPLICATION (UPDATE)

Mr. Osterhout reported that PASC has received a draft copy of the complaint for review.

XII. GOVERNMENTAL ISSUES UPDATES

Richey Smith, Coordinator, Government Affairs, reported that reduction in state participation in IHSS wages, functional index change, and limiting of IHSS share of cost were rejected by Senate Budget Subcommittee Number 3 and Assembly Budget Committee Number 1.

A proposal to extend the assessment interval from 12 to 18 months has been sent forward to the Conference Committee.

A proposal to forego SSP COLA was rejected by the Senate; the Assembly has not yet taken action on this proposal. A proposal to freeze the SSI COLA has been rejected.

In response to a question from Ms. Navarro, Mr. Smith confirmed that both committees voted to reject the Governor's proposal to eliminate Medi-Cal optional benefits, and restored 5% of the 10% cut to Medi-Cal providers.

Mr. Smith reported that a proposal regarding the 250% Working Disabled Program has escaped its house of origin, and will now be heard by the Senate Health Committee.

A bill restricting insurance companies from taking action against providers who use their automobiles to travel to consumers to provide in-home care will be heard in the coming weeks.

Ms. Navarro suggested that PASC send letters of thanks to committee members who rejected the IHSS proposals; Board members agreed.

Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury reported that 300 individuals from Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino attended the legislative hearings.

XIII. STATE BUDGET

Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury reported that she has submitted a plan to staff members, including conference calls to educate consumers and encourage them to attend a community forum to be scheduled at the end of June. All callers to PASC should be given information on the budget, either by directing them to PASC's website or mailing information to them. Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury also suggested that she and Ms. Navarro appear on a radio program.

Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury reported that the Union is taking the lead on planning statewide community forums. Ms. Becker Kennedy suggested that PASC partner with SEIU on an ad campaign. Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury agreed to bring up this idea with the planning committee; Ms. Becker Kennedy asked to be involved with this committee.

Ms. Becker Kennedy suggested that PASC organize a press conference. Mr. Osterhout recommended that PASC participate in a larger press conference, to maximize statewide press coverage; Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury agreed.

Mr. Davila-Castro suggested using city channels to disseminate information.

Ms. Navarro suggested holding a press conference to thank legislators.

Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury urged Board members to contact reporters from their neighborhood newspapers. Ms. Becker Kennedy responded that television coverage is also necessary.

Mr. Castano suggested that Board members write letters to newspapers. Ms. Argenta responded that her husband would be willing to submit a letter written by a Board member.

Ms. Becker Kennedy encouraged PASC to conduct a media public relations campaign to increase public awareness of IHSS.

Ms. Argenta volunteered to work with Mr. Davila-Castro to contact Santa Monica College, the Santa Monica *Mirror*, and other Westside newspapers; Ms. Argenta requested a sample letter for this purpose. Mr. Adler asked Ms. Feldman to redraft Mr. Osterhout's letter, with a focus on IHSS' cost-effectiveness and excerpts from Ms. Varga's comments. Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury suggested that the redrafted letter be sent to all Board members.

Mr. Adler suggested that Ms. Argenta also contact KCRW.

Ms. Becker Kennedy suggested that an update on the state budget be included on PASC's outgoing voicemail message; Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury agreed. **Mr. Adler recommended that a budget cut hotline be included as a menu option in PASC's phone system, and asked Mr. Smith and Ms. Feldman to investigate the cost of operating a separate 800 hotline.**

Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury emphasized the importance of working individually with consumers to determine how budget cuts would affect them and their services, and to maintain two-way communication.

Ms. Otero stressed the importance of working with the ILCs, and urged PASC to develop a database outside of the Registry database.

Ms. Becker Kennedy suggested that PASC's voicemail system include a prompt for callers who are having difficulties with the IHSS Program. Rebeca Sinclair Douglas, Assistant Director, Registry and Outreach, responded that this information is included in each Registry Bulletin; very few calls are received on this line. Mr. Adler asked Ms. Douglas to send information on this hotline to all Board members.

Mr. Adler asked whether or not this hotline is included as a prompt for incoming calls; Ms. Douglas responded that Mr. Adler had previously requested that callers hear as few menu options as possible. Mr. Adler responded that his priority is that callers speak with a live person during business hours.

Ms. Douglas voiced her opinion that the budget hotline be a separate, direct 800 number. Ms. Becker Kennedy disagreed; the hotline should be accessed through a prompt on PASC's existing phone system, for callers who are unable to write.

Ms. Becker Kennedy suggested that the phone system include a prompt for callers who are having problems with late paychecks and timesheets; Ms. Douglas responded that Registry staff members take calls on and assist with resolving these issues on a daily basis.

Mr. Adler asked Ms. Douglas to provide a copy of PASC's phone routing system to all Board members; Ms. Douglas agreed.

XIV. CICA UPDATE

XV. UNION ISSUES

No Union representatives were present.

XVI. NEW BUSINESS

XVII. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Adler reported from the closed session that a report from legal counsel was received, and ongoing collective bargaining was discussed.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Adler adjourned the meeting at 4 pm.

Ernie Castano, PASC Board Secretary

Date minutes approved

ACTION POINTS

- Ms. Tostado-Hernández reported that the CMIPS handbook contains no explanation or definition of the functional index. Mr. Adler asked Ms. Tostado-Hernández to urgently send a letter requesting this information. Mr. Adler also asked for information on the percentage of the LA County caseload at each level of functional index. Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury asked that this information include a breakdown of tasks and index by office. Mr. Price responded that DPSS will do its best to provide this information, but must factor in workload and cannot make a firm commitment. (page 2)
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