



PASC Governing Board Meeting Minutes October 5, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Ms. Otero called the meeting to order. Mr. Castano called the roll:

Members present: Mr. Adler, Ms. Becker Kennedy, Ms. Belton, Mr. Castano, Mr. Davila-Castro, Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury, Mr. MacDonald, Ms. Navarro, Ms. Otero, Ms. Varga, Mr. Vasquez

Members absent: Ms. Park, Ms. Argenta, Mr. Magady

II. READING OF MISSION STATEMENT AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

The mission statement was read by Ms. Belton, and a moment of silence was observed. Ms. Otero asked that the moment of silence be observed for all those who may be suffering.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 MINUTES

Approved on motion of Mr. Castano, seconded by Ms. Belton, by consensus.

V. MISSION MOMENTS

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Otero reported that a special Board meeting regarding imminent cuts to the IHSS Program was held on September 29th. The Board decided to form a volunteer corps to assist consumers with the appeal process, under the leadership of Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury.

Mr. Adler reported on attorneys' opinions that the share of cost is appealable, on the grounds that the Notice of Action is defective and unintelligible.

At Ms. Belton's request, Mr. Adler reported that the Board agreed at its special meeting to develop a letter to be sent by DPSS to the approximately 8000 consumers who will lose IHSS services as a result of a functional index below 2; the letter has been completed. The Board also passed a unanimous resolution of actions directed to DPSS; the resolution has been sent to Philip Browning.

VII. INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Golledge reported that Oleeta Igar, Coordinator, Program Development, has been working with Ms. Becker Kennedy to contact caseworkers who work with consumers who have mental disabilities regarding the IHSS cuts and the appeal process.

1. STATUS OF CUTS TO PA BUDGET

VIII. JULY 2009 FINANCIAL REPORT

AUGUST 2009 FINANCIAL REPORT

July financial report presented by Mr. Golledge. **Approved on motion of Mr. Castano, seconded by Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury, by consensus.**

August financial report presented by Mr. Golledge. **Approved on motion of Mr. Castano, seconded by Ms. Belton, by consensus.**

In accordance with California Government Code Section 53646(b)(1), Mr. Golledge reported on interest income for July and August.

Ms. Belton requested that PASC re-examine its telephone system contracts; Mr. Golledge agreed.

In response to a question from Mr. Castano, Mr. Golledge reported CDSS' announcement that the public authority administrative cut for LA County is 3%, based on last year's figures and LA County's caseload.

IX. CONSUMER NEEDS

Ms. Becker Kennedy expressed her concern that seniors of her mother's intellectual capacity, citizens with retardation, and people who are mentally ill understand their right to appeal. Ms. Becker Kennedy has asked Philip Browning to notify this population of their right to appeal, how to appeal, and how to request aid paid pending.

X. DPSS REPORT

Naomi Tostado-Hernández reported that she did not receive the list of questions from Mr. Magady regarding in-kind income to which she was asked to respond at last month's meeting.

Ms. Tostado-Hernández also reported that she is continuing to follow up on information requested by Mr. Castano regarding the Pickle Program.

1. IHSS FUNDING CUTS

DPSS will call each of the 8700 consumers who will be terminated effective November 1st; reassessment homecalls will be conducted if needed. Social worker staff will provide information on the appeal process and aid paid pending.

Ms. Tostado-Hernández does not yet have information on Mr. Browning's response to the email sent by Mr. Adler.

2. FOLLOW-UP – CONSUMER CALLS REGARDING IHSS REDUCTIONS

Ms. Tostado-Hernández reported that calls to all district offices have been tracked since mid-August; 95 calls have been received requesting reassessment, and 38 additional calls were received over the past two weeks.

Ms. Becker Kennedy urged DPSS to implement a uniform mandatory notification to be sent to all consumers.

Rebeca Sinclair Douglas, Assistant Director, Registry and Outreach, reported that the Registry received a call from a consumer who was recently visited by a social worker, who notified the consumer that her case would be closed, but did not leave her name, contact information, or any other information regarding her case.

Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury suggested that PASC partner with social workers and accompany them on home visits. Mr. Adler requested that a staff member review DPSS training materials, and that PASC participate in meetings with County Counsel. Ms. Varga suggested that members of the volunteer corps meet with social workers. Ms. Becker Kennedy disagreed, and urged PASC to focus on sending written information to consumers who have a functional index of 1.

Ms. Belton suggested that a PASC representative speak during public comment at tomorrow's Board of Supervisors' meeting.

Ms. Varga reported that consumers are not receiving return phone calls from their social workers regarding their functional indexes. Ms. Tostado-Hernández confirmed that there are 800 numbers for the IHSS Ombudsman and for each district office, and that consumers may obtain their functional index by calling the Ombudsman. Ms. Belton reported that her caseworker has made 22 phone calls to obtain functional index information for consumers, and has received no return phone calls.

In response to questions from Mr. Davila-Castro, Ms. Tostado-Hernández described the process for determining functional index following reassessment, and reported that DPSS has no information on the date Notices of Action will be sent. Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury reported that the NOA will include the functional index; Sonia Perez responded that only NOAs sent to consumers who are being impacted and terminated will include functional index information.

Ms. Tostado-Hernández reported that DPSS is compiling resource information to be distributed to consumers, including information on Social Security, APS, Meals on Wheels, and senior centers.

Mr. Adler urged DPSS to send a notice to the 30,000 consumers whose hours will be reduced, and requested that PASC review the notice before it is sent. Ms. Tostado-Hernández confirmed that this request was in the email sent by Mr. Adler to Mr. Browning.

Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury reported that language has been added to the suit for a temporary injunction on the cuts. Mr. Adler added that the suit challenging the governor's line-item veto did not ask for preliminary injunctions or temporary restraining orders. Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury named the suits that have been filed.

Mr. MacDonald asked Mr. Golledge to contact Mr. Browning and email the Board with an update on his response.

Ms. Becker Kennedy asked that information be added to PASC's letter to direct consumers to call an 866 number and request aid paid pending; Ms. Belton, Mr. Castano, and Mr. Adler disagreed. Mr. MacDonald suggested that the letter be sent to regional center service coordinators.

XI. PASC ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES

1. REPORT OF PASC'S ACTIONS REGARDING IHSS CUTS

Ms. Igar reported that she and Ms. Becker Kennedy are contacting service coordinators, service providers, and case managers. Regional centers, MSSPs, Pacific Clinics, senior centers, and independent living centers are being contacted by phone. An in-person meeting for service providers is being organized at Southern California Center for Rehabilitation in Downey.

Ms. Igar and Ms. Tostado-Hernández are also participating in the IHSS Multiagency Workgroup, led by the Partners in Care Foundation. Trainings for the 211 Infoline and county and city information and referral hotlines are being planned.

2. BACK-UP PROGRAM

3. REGISTRY AND OUTREACH

4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

5. PROGRAMS AND TRAINING STATUS REPORT

Ms. Igar reported that PASC is working with the Department of Public Health on a series of health-related trainings for 2010, to be conducted by public health nurses.

Ms. Becker Kennedy suggested that organizations who are contacted be asked to recommend other organizations for contact. **Ms. Becker Kennedy suggested that teleconferencing be offered at the service providers meeting; Ms. Igar agreed to speak with the meeting organizer regarding this.**

Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury recommended that PASC collect data on consumers who file appeals; Ms. Igar responded that the Multiagency Workgroup is discussing this. Ms. Belton suggested that Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury develop a form to be used, and that PASC consider confidentiality issues.

Ms. Navarro suggested that PASC contact LA Care, and that participate in an upcoming city neighborhood councils conference.

Ms. Igar reported that she staffs the PASC-IHSS Mobile Helpdesk twice per month at senior centers.

XII. CICA UPDATE

Ms. Otero reported that CICA has obtained 501(c)(3) approval, and encouraged all Board members to attend the CICA conference to be held January 22nd-24th in San Jose.

XIII. UNION ISSUES

Scott Mann from ULTCW reported that a federal lawsuit has been filed to stop or postpone cuts to IHSS hours, citing the use of functional index scores. ULTCW's legal team is working to file additional documents to obtain an injunction prior to mailing of the Notices of Action on October 19th.

Mr. Mann also reported that a newsletter will be mailed to providers containing cards to be given to consumers, as suggested by Ms. Becker Kennedy.

Mr. Adler commended ULTCW for its press release, and reported that the Los Angeles Times recently published an inaccurate article regarding the lawsuit.

Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury requested that Mr. Mann provide data at each month's Board meeting on the number of calls the union receives; Mr. Mann agreed.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Becker Kennedy requested that discussion of PASC withdrawing its CAPA dues be included on next month's agenda; Ms. Otero agreed.

Ms. Otero reminded the Board that a meeting is not generally held in December. Ms. Belton suggested that a December meeting be considered; Ms. Otero agreed to discuss this at next month's meeting.

XV. CLOSED SESSION

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Yungsohn Park, PASC Board Secretary

Date minutes approved

ACTION POINTS

- Ms. Belton requested that PASC re-examine its telephone system contracts; Mr. Golledge agreed.
- Mr. MacDonald asked Mr. Golledge to contact Mr. Browning and email the Board with an update on his response.
- Ms. Becker Kennedy suggested that teleconferencing be offered at the service providers meeting; Ms. Igar agreed to speak with the meeting organizer regarding this.
- Ms. Heinritz-Canterbury requested that Mr. Mann provide data at each month's Board meeting on the number of calls the union receives; Mr. Mann agreed.
- Ms. Becker Kennedy requested that discussion of PASC withdrawing its CAPA dues be included on next month's agenda; Ms. Otero agreed.
- Ms. Otero reminded the Board that a meeting is not generally held in December. Ms. Belton suggested that a December meeting be considered; Ms. Otero agreed to discuss this at next month's meeting.