

PASC Board Meeting Monday, January 3, 2022 Minutes

1. Call to order: The Personal Assistance Services Council (PASC) Board Meeting was called to order at 1:00pm.

Donna Fields called the roll: Wilma Ballew, Jorge Chuc, Steven Echor, Donna Fields, Lyn Goldfarb, Janet Heinritz-Canterbury, Terrance Henson, Richard Hernandez, Carrie Madden, Lilibeth Navarro, Chris Otero, Cynde Soto and Jennifer Stark were present.

Board members absent: All members present.

2. Findings made at December 21, 2021 Board of Supervisor's Meeting to continue holding meetings via Teleconferencing (includes PASC Board meetings). Debi Hight referenced that the January 3rd PASC board meeting fell within the Findings made on December 21, 2021, and can continue the meeting via teleconference. – *Attachment B*

3. Reading of the Mission Statement and Moment of Silence – *Attachment C*

Jennifer read the mission statement. **The Personal Assistance Services Council (PASC) strives to improve In Home supportive Services (IHSS) support independence and enhance the quality of life for all who receive and provide In Home Supportive Services.**

Moment of Silence – None.

4. Public Comment – None.

5. Consent Agenda

- a) Financial Report – Approval of October 2021 ADMIN – *Attachment D-1*
- b) Financial Report – Approval of October 2021 NPER – *Attachment D-2*
- c) Financial Report – Approval of November 2021 ADMIN – *Attachment D-3*
- d) Financial Report – Approval of November 2021 NPER – *Attachment D-4*
- e) Activity Calendar – *Attachment E* (January 2022)
- f) PASC Board Performance Measures November 2021 – *Attachment F (with stats)*

Lyn asked about certain budget deficits and Greg Thompson explained the recent State increase in funding for Public Authority administration and the need to revise the PASC budget to reflect the increase. This is currently in process and will be completed soon.

Motion to approve the consent agenda, moved by Jennifer, second by Chris, motion passes unanimously.

6. Board Chair's Report – Cynde Soto

- a) New Year Greetings - Cynde wished everyone a happy new year and acknowledged that it will be a busy 2022 with all of the changes with policies and various programs and the governor's budget.

b) Provider Shortage Crisis –
Cynde expressed her thoughts about the provider shortage crisis and would like to use it as a hashtag. She stated that whenever the Board can talk about the provider shortage crisis, it would be helpful to their work.

c) Board of Supervisor Meeting – Outreach and Reports

District 1 – Jennifer reported that Greg and she met with three deputies from Supervisor Solis' office. Greg added that they discussed bringing PASC into the new county department of aging and for PASC to be included in these discussions. **Jennifer stated that she will look at her notes and create an outline and send it to the Board about this meeting with Supervisor Solis' deputies.**

District 2 – Lillibeth stated that she was not able to meet with the deputies but plans to meet with them this year. Janet mentioned that a new board member from this district should be coming soon.

District 3 – Lyn was not able to have a formal meeting but did speak with Genethia (BOS Deputy) about the IHSS provider crisis as well as PASC's desire to be part of the new department of aging. Greg mentioned the support PASC is receiving on this front and that the newly appointed director, Dr. Laura Trejo is also of the same mind. Lyn is still working on an official meeting with the district.

Terrance stated that he has been in contact with DOD and they are interested in what Dr. Laura Trejo is doing with AAA, both the city and the county. He also stated that this is a good conversation to have with PASC, CDA, both AAA's and DOD and to get the commission involved. Greg asked Terrance to clarify when he is speaking of the commission, is he referring to the LA County Commission on Disability? Terrance responded and clarified that he mentioned both names, the commission and the DOD from the city. **Greg asked Terrance if he could coordinate a meeting and Terrance said yes.**

District 4 – Richard stated that he, Cynde, Greg and Janet met with the 4th district deputy Maral and discussed the provider shortage crisis. He stated that the deputy is willing to assist and address the issue.

District 5 – Chris stated that she had a conversation with Supervisor Barger's officer back in December 2019 pre COVID and her goal was to invite Supervisor Barger to the PASC office since PASC is in the 5th district. She stated that Supervisor Barger was unable to make it but a staff person did. Her goal for January will be to set another meeting.

DPSS Appointees – Carrie mentioned the upcoming meeting with DPSS on January 10, 2022.

d) General Board Discussion - Steven asked Greg about the Hero Stimulus pay for homecare providers. Greg responded and stated that it should be happening in January 2022 and the checks will be sent out as well. Debi added that she will be reporting on it in her report.

Lillibeth asked for point of clarification regarding the Hero Stimulus pay and asked if it is part of the provider's pay. Debi stated that it is a one-time payment of \$500 and she explained the qualifications in order for a provider to receive it. She also stated that this payment will be counted towards wages and done through CMIPS.

7. Executive Director's Report – Greg Thompson

- a) EPG-State funding for EPG ended on 12/31/21. PASC seeking other funding sources but will not be continuing with off-site distributions until funding is resolved. **Terrance voiced concern with this and offered to partner with PASC to use other resources to assist in EPG distribution (possibly with ILC).** Greg recommended asking DPSS what their plan is going forward at next week's meeting on January 10. Greg will also reach out to Vance Taylor at the State level.

Greg stated that DPSS is responsible for IHSS in LA County and they task PASC to do several things under its contract. He stated that when they meet with DPSS, they might want to ask, what is their plan related to trying to ensure consumers and providers have EPG in LA County especially with the new COVID mandate for IHSS providers.

- b) Department of Aging and Community Service Update

Greg stated that he was very excited to be a part of Dr. Trejo's event. He was able to speak to Dr. Trejo, BOS 4th District Deputy Maral, and the director of WDACS. He stated that he thinks the long-term goal is for Dr. Trejo's department to be taken out of WDACS and be a stand-alone department. Greg mentioned the importance of creating a "Whole Person Registry" similar to HomeBridge in San Francisco, to assist with provider placement for higher needs consumers. Greg would like to begin working on this type of "Whole Person Registry" which, he emphasized, would still focus on consumer choice. Providers would have enhanced training and better able to serve this consumer population. With the Board's permission, he will move forward and bring details back to the next Board meeting.

Janet asked Greg who is responsible for recruiting providers? Greg stated that PASC is charged with this responsibility, however, PASC does not have the resources or access to new providers.

Steven asked if the emergency provider pay was \$18 per hour and Greg stated that it is \$19 an hour as of January 1, 2022, as well as the regular providers will be paid \$16 per hour.

Terrance commented and agreed with Greg's idea of a hybrid registry and is interested and would like to work with Greg. Greg responded and stated that he is focused on the low-income seniors and persons who are aging into or has a disability. He stated that there is funding for it and there are other counties that use a contract mode. He detailed funding streams which could possibly save the county money.

- c) PASC Revised Budget – The state CFL was issued, including PA administration funding. Revised budget necessary to reflect the additional funding.

MOTION:

Whereas, on November 2, 2021, the California Department of Social Services issued a County Fiscal Letter (CFL) No. 21/22-37, informing counties of the Fiscal Year 2021-22 In-Home Supportive Services Program planning allocation, which includes funding for Public Authorities. The allocation includes funding for COVID19 Essential Protective Gear through December 31, 2021. A MOTION is hereby made to authorize PASC Executive Director Greg Thompson to sign the PASC Revised FY 2021-22 Budget, which incorporates the funding allocations detailed in CFL No. 21/22-37. Motion by Steven, seconded by Jennifer, Motion passes unanimously.

8. PASC Operations – Luis Bravo: All PASC Call Center staff is back in the office. There are fewer IT issues and as of the end of the year, 86% of consumer calls to PASC are being answered. Staff training is ongoing in APS and IHSS Programs. PASC recently had DPSS onsite contract monitoring and the review is still in process. Donna asked about disconnected call numbers and Luis explained that the caller didn't stay on the phone long enough to be connected with call center staff.

Lilibeth asked if PASC works with the Union on the back up program and Luis mentioned that the Health Plan Advisory Committee was getting started on this but haven't been able to meet again due to pressing COVID-19 issues.

9. Legislative Update – Debi Hight – *Attachment H* – Debi presented her report on County, State and Federal regulations and policy matters.

Lilibeth asked Debi about the religious exemption. Debi stated that it has to be a sincerely held belief. An exemption form has to be filled out and at this time, there is no documentation required from a religious figure. If the exemption is granted, a weekly COVID test is required.

Lilibeth also asked about a medical exemption and Debi stated that it would require a physician's verification as well as a form to be filled out and approved. A weekly COVID test will be required.

10. Share of Cost Presentation – Kim Selfon, Bet Tzedek Legal Services – *Attachment I* - PowerPoint presentation on Medi-Cal Share of Cost and its detriments to accessing IHSS. Some consumers end up owing their providers money. One possible solution is the IHSS Access Project which aims to help consumers transfer to a Medi-Cal program without Share of Cost. One idea would be a specialized counselor at DPSS. Kim needs help from PASC with ideas to put forth toward this program. Janet asked what PASC could do and Kim recommended that the PASC board contact their DPSS liaisons. Janet mentioned the upcoming DPSS meeting and will bring this up for discussion.

Kim stated that she has spoken with Sherri Cheatham from DPSS who seemed interested, but Sherri stated that this was not a new need and doesn't know if DPSS can put specific resources to this program.

Kim displayed her contact information which is in the Board packet.

Kim Selfon
323-648-4726
kselfon@bettzedek.org

Kim stated that she would like DPSS to do a mandated referral.

Lilibeth asked if DPSS needs convincing and Kim stated that DPSS told her that they are trained to do this job.

Greg stated that PASC would like to help and host online presentations on the Share of Cost issue.

11. Report from SEIU 2015 – Wendy Duchon/Vernita Randall – No Report

12. DPSS: Ying Chan reported:

TOPIC	UPDATE
IHSS Helpline Data	For the month of November 2021, the IHSS Helpline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of calls received: 121,403 • Average wait time 4:44 minutes, • General inquiries/calls:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Case updates/changes. ○ Payment/Timesheet issues ○ Assessment/Reassessment ○ Change of Worker
IHSS Stats	<p>IHSS Caseload as of November 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipients: 240,677 • Providers: 195,505
Wage Rate Increase	<p>Effective January 1, 2022 the wage rate for the IHSS providers will increase to \$16.00 per hour and the wage rate for the Back-Up Attendant Program providers will increase to \$19.00 per hour.</p>
Outreach Efforts	<p><u>IHSS Helpline Community Portal Website: Text & Email Campaign to Recipients and Providers:</u></p> <p>DPSS conducted two campaigns to recipients and providers informing them of the chat feature on the IHSS Helpline Community Portal Website:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The first campaign was a text message that was sent during the week of November 24, 2021 to 242,021 recipients and providers. 2. The second campaign started the week of December 6, 2021 and was a weekly email. <p><u>Text Campaign for IHSS recipients ages 5-11 for Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccination</u></p> <p>DPSS has an ongoing weekly text campaign for IHSS recipients ages 5-11, informing them of their eligibility for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination. Text message includes the DPH website and telephone number to schedule an appointment. The campaign was launched on December 6, 2021 and will run through February 7, 2022.</p>
IHSS	<p>In-Person Applicant Provider Orientation Pilot: With the implementation of Assembly Bill 79, SEIU, PASC and DPSS have been in discussion on how best to implement this requirement. This bill mandates counties permit the union to make a presentation of up to 30 minutes at the beginning of the provider orientation. As such, it was agreed among the stakeholders to pilot in-person applicant provider orientations at three of the SEIU offices (Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Lancaster). This pilot ran from December 14th and concluded on</p>

	<p>December 29th at the request of one of the stakeholders to change the model. As a result, we are currently assessing the outcomes of this pilot and we will be meeting once more to discuss how to proceed. Until an agreement can be made with the stakeholders, DPSS will continue to offer the applicant provider enrollment/orientation online, until further notice.</p> <p>Recipients and providers can continue to contact the IHSS Helpline for assistance. The IHSS Helpline hours are Monday thru Friday from 8am – 5pm, 1-888-822-9622.</p>
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Janet asked for clarification regarding PASC and the Union in Ying’s report and Sonia re-read the report talking about the In-Person Applicant Provider Orientation pilot program from December 14th thru December 29th. The pilot program was discontinued at the request of a stakeholder.

Janet also asked Sonia if providers receive Notice of Action for their consumers? Ying stated that yes, the providers will be notified of what kind of services they are supposed to provide to the consumers.

13. Unfinished/Old Business – None

14. New Business – Future Agenda Items: **Janet proposed a working group (ad hoc committee) to discuss how to assist with Kim’s request for PASC help on the Share of Cost issues presented.**

Cynde, Terrance, Carrie, Janet and Richard will make up the Ad Hoc committee.

Debi clarified that a motion is not necessary to form this committee.

Janet suggested that Terrance coordinate the efforts and Terrance agreed.

15. Closed Session –

a) Labor negotiations (Govt. Code Section 54957.6): Discussion/recommendations on collective bargaining negotiations between PASC and SEIU Local 2015 currently in process.

Open Session –

Cynde reported out and stated that a report was received from Greg about the contract with SEIU 2015.

16. Mission Moments –

Seven stated that he mentioned mission moment earlier.

Lillibeth shared her story about her holiday celebration with her attendant and family.

17. Adjournment – Cynde Soto adjourned the meeting at 3:15pm.

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

Action Items:

- **District 1** – Jennifer reported that Greg and she met with three deputies from Supervisor Solis' office. Greg added that they discussed bringing PASC into the new county department of aging and for PASC to be included in these discussions. **Jennifer stated that she will look at her notes and create an outline and send it to the Board about this meeting with Supervisor Solis' deputies.**
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