

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:
September 5, 2007
9:30 A.M.

To: In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority Governing Board

From: In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority

Subject: Approve The In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority Fiscal Year 2007-08 Final Budget In The Amount Of \$2,357,486

Contact: Bernadette Lynch, Executive Director, (916) 875-0945

Overview

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Public Authority for Sacramento County is mandated by Welfare and Institutions Code 12301.6 to be the employer of record for IHSS caregivers and to provide access to education and registry/referral services for IHSS caregivers and consumers. The recommended Final Budget of \$2,357,486 (Attachment A) includes funding to continue current IHSS Public Authority operations.

Recommendation

Adopt the Sacramento County In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority Fiscal Year 2007-08 Budget of \$2,357,486.

Fiscal Impact

Federal, state, and realignment revenues fund the Public Authority's expenses. The IHSS Public Authority's requested Fiscal Year 2007-08 Final Budget of \$2,357,486 will be reimbursed from federal and state sources in the amount of \$1,944,926. The Public Authority's realignment allocation contributes the local requirement of \$412,560. There are no County General Fund monies in this Final Budget.

BACKGROUND

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors established the IHSS Public Authority in September 2000. By statute (Welfare and Institutions Code 12301.6), the Public Authority is the employer of record for the purposes of collective bargaining of wages and benefits. The statute further requires that the Public Authority establish a registry to assist IHSS consumers in finding providers and providing access to training for both providers and consumers.

The Sacramento County IHSS Public Authority fulfills its legislated mandates with the valuable input from the IHSS Advisory Committee and from community organizations that share the concern of promoting in-home care services to assist IHSS clients to remain safely in their own homes. The Public Authority's recruitment, screening, development of and continued education

of caregivers support this level of excellence, while maintaining streamlined procedures and a fiscally responsible budget.

On May 16, 2007, the Board approved a Proposed Budget in the amount of \$2,644,628. A reduction in the anticipated realignment dollars available in Fiscal Year 2007-08 necessitated reduction of the Public Authority Final Budget to \$2,357,486 (Attachment A). The reduction in funding precludes a planned move to a larger facility that would better serve the needs of IHSS clients and staff.

DISCUSSION

Registry Services

When the Public Authority's Registry was established in 2002, there were 12,000 IHSS consumers. Today, there are over 18,000 IHSS consumers. Four registry specialists, one registry social worker and two senior office specialists manage the registry services for the IHSS consumers who need to find an available and qualified caregiver. In 2006, 1,572 lists were created by registry staff. These lists provide the names and contact information of registry caregivers, who have been screened, had an interview, had references checked and successfully completed a Department of Justice (DOJ) background check.

For several years, the County of Sacramento IHSS Advisory Committee had advocated for an urgent response service to assist consumers when their regular caregiver is unable to work. Urgent response services began in May 2007, rolling out to registry consumers on a pilot basis. With some experience and adequate funding, the program will be offered to additional IHSS consumers. This budget includes \$25,000 to fund urgent care services through a continuing service agreement with AccentCare.

Education

The IHSS Public Authority has continued to offer classes taught by a variety of community partners: the American Red Cross, Eskaton's Senior Connection, and the UC Cooperative Extension. Classes are taught at times and in locations convenient to both IHSS caregivers and consumers. Since January 2007, there have been 52 classes offered to IHSS consumers and providers.

The IHSS Public Authority mandate specifies that education and training be offered to caregivers and consumers (providers and recipients). It is difficult for many IHSS consumers to arrange transportation to the various training centers. Therefore, staff provides onsite educational activities in congregate housing developments such as the Fairgrounds apartment complex, the Wong Center, and the Village Crossing Apartments. Social Workers are working with the Resident Advisory Board for Public Housing to provide classes in additional locations. Classes are periodically offered in Spanish, Russian, Hmong, Chinese, and Vietnamese.

Wage/Benefit Negotiations

The IHSS Public Authority, with support from County of Sacramento Labor Relations, negotiated with Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers, West (SEIU-UHW), the union representing caregivers. The IHSS caregivers' wages increased on

January 1, 2007, from \$10.00 to \$10.40 per hour. The State of California will participate in wages up to \$10.50 per hour. The new agreement shifted \$0.10 from the state wage maximum to increase funding for health and dental benefits. This expense shifting resulted in continuing health and dental benefits for 3,150 eligible caregivers who continue to contribute \$15 per month toward insurance costs. There continues to be a waiting list of over 750, and those on the list may wait as long as 12-18 months before there is room in the program for them. The three-year agreement contains a formula that adjusts for IHSS caseload increases, calculating the IHSS Public Authority's future premium contributions. An increase in the insurance premium is anticipated for 2008. SEIU-UHW may request a reopening of negotiations to discern how their members will fund any health and dental premium increases beyond what IHSS caseload growth will cover.

Interns and Volunteers

In the fall, The California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) intern program continues with two bachelor degree and two masters' degree interns supporting IHSS Public Authority activities. The interns' activities will include follow-up on registry-referred providers, assisting in developing classes and special projects, co-leading support groups and caregiver orientations, and research and report writing. Other volunteers, including summer teens, provide assistance to the Public Authority by assisting staff with the assembly of orientation materials and mail-outs, and helping with other routine tasks that help staff better serve clients.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

A waiver instituted by the State of California, and approved by the US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in 2004, added federal participation for IHSS residual services for five years. Consequently, the State of California was able to realize significant savings.

The IHSS Public Authority Fiscal Year 2007-08 Final Budget of \$2,357,486 is funded by federal (50.0%), state (32.5%), and county (17.5%) governments. Federal participation is expected to be \$1,178,743; and state participation \$766,183, with a remaining local match (realignment) of \$412,560.

Respectfully submitted,

BERNADETTE LYNCH, Executive Director
IHSS Public Authority

APPROVED:
TERRY SCHUTTEN
County Executive

By: _____
PENELOPE CLARKE, Administrator
Countywide Services Agency

Attachments:

Resolution - Fiscal Year 2007-08 Final Budget

Attachment A - Fiscal Year 2007-08 Recommended Final Budget

RESOLUTION NO. _____

BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Governing Board of the Sacramento County In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority approves and adopts the Fiscal Year 2007-08 Final Budget of \$2,357,486 for the Sacramento County In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority.

On a motion by Director _____, Seconded by Director _____, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the Governing Board of the Sacramento County In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority, State of California, this 5th day of September, 2007, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Directors
NOES: Directors
ABSENT: Directors
ABSTAIN: Directors

Chair, In-Home Supportive Services
Public Authority Governing Board
County of Sacramento, California

ATTEST: _____

Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Directors