

AMENDED

**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES/PUBLIC AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
July 11, 2025, 12:45 PM**

**South Region Livewell Center
401 Mile of Cars Way
2nd Floor, Training Room 2086
National City, CA 91950**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8597078275?pwd=bFkxa2tGMGJvL0xLNU5xS3RrYlZrdz09>

Meeting ID: 859 707 8275

Passcode: 172598

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 12:48 PM.			
2. Attendance			
Members		Absent Members	Guests
Nadine Branch Yolanda Ivy Angela Vittucci Blanca Paulin	Nicanora Montenegro	Charles Kirtley -(Excused Absence)	Cindy Greatrex
Members via Zoom	AIS/IHSS Staff	IHSS Public Authority	Guest – via Zoom
Russell Evans Sabrina Bishop	Abigail Salud Gilberto Contreras-Morales Sara Fuentes	Thomas H. Johnson Elisia Garcia Lorena Gazca Ana Molina Denise Bernal Leonardo Madrigal Meredith McCarthy Linda Santana Pati Lopez Samer Shamasha	Melissa Barling Alexis Bermudes
3. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM: Done.			
4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Done.			
5. INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.			
6. MEETING CODE OF CONDUCT REVIEW: Yolanda reviewed the code of conduct.			
7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Nicanora suggested to amend the agenda with the addition of the UDW event on 8/16/2025, the Live Well event on 10/22/2025, and the CA for All seminar from 11/5/2025 to 11/7/2025. Angela motioned to approve the amended agenda, and Blanca seconded. Motion passed.			
8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Angela motioned, Nadine seconded. Motion passed.			
9. CHAIR REPORT: Nicanora shared that she and Nadine attended the LiveWell Center Region Community Leadership hosted by the Department of Strategy and Community Engagement Health & Human Services, County of San Diego. Director Corey Riccitalli expounded on the purpose of her			

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department, and attorney Michelle Vakili J.D., managing attorney for immigrant services of Catholic Charities discussed ongoing incidents by ICE and CBP in San Diego, the rights of immigrants, what to do during ICE raids, and documentation you should ask for. She said they provide legal services for those detained by ICE. Nicanora said that undocumented and documented citizens were encouraged to carry a Real ID. She mentioned that red cards were distributed, with advice on what to do if arrested, and participants were later divided into three groups: Education & Economic Development, Health & Wellness, and Housing & Homelessness. Nicanora shared that the Education & Economic Development is doing a youth career training on Saturdays, starting on 7/12/25-8/2/2025 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM in District 4. She says she also attended the National Federation of Filipino American Association (NaFFAA) meeting on 6/27/2025, and says the federation is greatly concerned about the Medicaid cuts. Nicanora shared that the Pilipino Workers Center (PWC) has just conducted workforce development training to almost 100 caregivers which is funded by the Los Angeles Department of Economic Opportunity.

10. Presentation: Public Authority Overview by Public Authority Executive and Management.

Thomas H. Johnson (Public Authority Executive Director), along with agency management, provided an overview of the Public Authority. The Public Authority, with 86 staff members, serves over 43,000 caregivers throughout San Diego County. The Public Authority is a separate legal entity, governed by the Board of Supervisors, but collaborates closely with the County of San Diego. Thomas shared that the Public Authority is state mandated to serve as the employer of record for IHSS Caregivers, provide caregiver training, operate a caregiver Registry, and negotiate with the local caregiver union (United Domestic Workers) . He explained that the agency also works with the IHSS/Public Authority Advisory Committee, which is one of the most active committees throughout the state. Thomas expressed that he values and is grateful for the committee's recommendations regarding the IHSS program and Public Authority. Meredith McCarthy, Deputy Director, discussed the Administration department, which is one of the four departments of the PA. She explained the PA has its separate staff relating to IT, Operational, Fiscal & Contracts, HR, and Marketing. Pati Lopez, Registry Manager, discussed the Registry's department role, highlighting its distinct operations from IHSS, and managing the caregiver Registry and training. She discussed the PA works with about 3,000 Registry caregivers that assist 3,500 Registry recipients. The Registry provides matching services for non-relative caregivers, generates customized lists of caregivers, and offers training through Care Academy for caregivers. The discussion highlighted the need to better promote ongoing training opportunities to caregivers. Linda Santana, Provider Enrollment and Training Manager, provided an overview of the Provider Enrollment & Training Department. She shared that the department processes approximately 950-1000 caregiver applicants monthly. She commented that the daily sessions are in both English and Spanish, with an average enrollment time of 13 business days. Linda shared that caregivers must complete fingerprinting, background checks, watch a State-mandated training video, and meet with a union representative during the enrollment session. Samer Shamasha, Provider Services Supervisor, provided an overview of the Provider Services Department. He explained that the department handles employment authorization documents, manages caregivers' payments and direct deposits, and provides training on timesheet completion. They also handle over 13,600 calls monthly and approximately 2,100 providers who visit the lobby for assistance.

11. REPORTS

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A. Aging and Independence Services (AIS) Council	No updates.	
B. Membership	Gilberto said he had two recipients interested in joining the committee. In addition to those recipients, Gilberto said he will confirm the bylaws to find out if it's possible to have those who are interested in joining as members on a waitlist for when there is a vacancy.	
C. IHSS	Abigail reported that IHSS is fully staffed. She shared that the IHSS department is aware of any alerts that go out by the San Diego Emergency Line, and will call recipients who could be affected. Abigail said that the IHSS staff reached out to 67 IHSS recipients who were affected by the Steele Fire. She mentioned that the IHSS staff trainings continue, including discussions about confidentiality. Abigail shared that they received training on how to evaluate minors on 6/6/2025 by the Appeals Department. She introduced supervisor Sara Fuentes.	
D. Community Report	Nicanora shared a few upcoming events, including the Cancer Walk and Family Picnic event by the Grandparents Connection, Inc., event on 7/11/2025. She also shared about a Summer Market event on 8/2/2025 at the People's Church. During this event, they will be enrolling people for free health insurance and providing blood pressure and blood sugar testing. Nicanora then mentioned a Kubo Collective event on 8/5/2025 in National City.	
E. California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA)	Yolanda shared that CICA membership fees are due for a total of \$750. She shared that Janie Whiteford has once again been voted in as the new Executive Director. Yolanda mentioned there will be a Lunch and Learn with the Southern Region on 7/15/2025 and a Central Region meeting on 8/15/2025.	
F. San Diego Regional Center	Alexis shared that the next IHSS collaborative meeting will be in September and offered to answer any questions. Nicanora asked for clarification on who is eligible for Supportive Living Services (SLS) and Alexis explained that SLS is for someone who requires a higher level of care, lives independently or with a roommate. She explained that the service living provider will complete an assessment of what the individual's needs are. Alexis shared that the IHSS caregiver and SLS providers are not working on the same thing at the same time.	
G. Public Authority (PA)	Thomas informed the committee that there will be a hearing on 7/16/2025 on the Brown Act Bill SB707. One of the key factors of the bill is that it allows remote participation for IHSS/PA Advisory Committees and other committees as well. He shared that CAPA has not taken an official position yet. Thomas shared that Bill AB283 (Statewide Collective Bargaining) has a hearing date of 7/14/2025. There is \$3.3 million budgeted by the State to facilitate that process. Thomas shared that the Public Authority's budget has been	

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	<p>approved, but they are receiving routine updates from the County's special task force that is monitoring Federal funding (including Medi-Care/Medicaid. He mentioned that the budget negotiations between the Public Authority and UDW will begin October 1, 2025, as the current agreement is in place until December 31, 2025. Thomas said the Public Authority staff will begin working on the IHSS/Public Authority Advisory Committee's Annual Report. Thomas requested that the Advisory Committee communicate directly with Denise Bernal from this point forward due to Ana Molina taking on her new position. He also mentioned to Nicanora that the Public Authority would begin reaching out to her to schedule regular meetings. Thomas reviewed the Advisory Committee's financial report.</p>	
<p>12. Old Business (discussion and possible action): A. Committee Events: 1. UDW Resource Fair (6/14/2025)- From 10-2 PM on Coronado Ave 2. Goals (FY25-26): The committee agreed on continuing with the same goals as last fiscal year.</p>		
<p>13. New Business (discussion and possible action): Nadine discussed the following topics and encouraged members to attend: 1. UDW Event on 8/16/22025 2. Livewell Event 10/22/2025 3. Vote for Registration of CA for All Event 11/5/2025-11/7/2025 in Garden Grove, CA – Early Registration is \$475, deadline for registration is 10/3/2025, will be placed on the next agenda for vote (will be placed in the next agenda to vote on whether the IHSS/PA Advisory Committee will participate, who will attend, and the budget).</p>		
<p>14. PUBLIC COMMENT: None</p>		
<p>14. MEMBER COMMENT: Blanca said she attended an AARP presentation about scams and fraud. This helped educate the more vulnerable population by being aware of people using AI to simulate their voice on calls. Angela mentioned she is receiving several calls about Medicare and believes it also might be someone attempting to commit Medicare fraud.</p>		
<p>15. NEXT MEETING AGENDA: 8/8/2025</p>		
<p>16. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM</p>		

Minutes prepared by Nicanora Montenegro, Thomas H. Johnson, Denise Bernal, and Ana Molina