

- IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES/PUBLIC AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 12, 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 12:49 PM.			
2. Attendance			
Members		Absent Members	Guests
Nadine Branch Yolanda Ivy Angela Vittucci Blanca Paulin	Nicanora Montenegro		
Members via Zoom	AIS/IHSS Staff	IHSS Public Authority	Guest – via Zoom
Russell Evans Sabrina Bishop Charles Kirtley	Abigail Salud Gilberto Contreras-Morales Aleyamma Thomas Heather Flippo	Thomas H. Johnson Denise Bernal Leonardo Madrigal	Lan Chung Don Howard Trang Pham Molly Foster Brigette Wallman Melissa Barling Cindy Greatrex
3. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM: Done.			
4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Done.			
5. INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.			
6. MEETING CODE OF CONDUCT REVIEW: Blanca reviewed the code of conduct.			
7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Nicanora suggested amending the agenda by adding the UDW Event under the Old Business topic. Yolanda motioned to amend the agenda, and Blanca seconded. Motion Passed. Nicanora asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda. Angela motioned, and Blanca seconded. Motion passed.			
8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Angela motioned; Yolanda seconded. Motion passed.			
9. CHAIR REPORT: Nicanora shared that she had her first leadership meeting with Blanca Paulin and Thomas H. Johnson, Executive Director at the Public Authority. She says they went over various topics and thanked them for their time. Nicanora invited the public and committee members to participate in the presentation, write down their questions, and ask questions after the presentation is completed.			

10. Presentation: Stop the Hate Training by Brigette Wallman.

Brigette, from Communities Actively Living Independent & Free (CALIF), presented the “Stop the Hate Training”, which aims to help people experiencing hate and harassment in different forms. She shared data on hate crimes and incidents in Los Angeles County, highlighting that hate based on race/ethnicity/national origin and religion is most commonly reported, while hate crimes against people with disabilities are significantly underreported. Brigette explained the difference between hate crimes (violent acts motivated by bias) and hate incidents (prejudiced acts that may not be violent), and discussed the Stop Hate Network's resources and reporting process. She included information about the 5D bystander intervention approach and various support services available to victims. Q&A followed the presentation.

11. REPORTS

A. Aging and Independence Services (AIS) Council	Sabrina reported that the AIS Council had a meeting on Monday. She shared that a housing officer visited to explain the current housing projects, one of which involves building a 50-unit building for seniors, which is expected to open between 2026 and 2027. This will help combat the housing crisis and provide affordable living for those who are disabled and seniors. She mentioned that she raised concerns about the lack of accountability for tenants with housing vouchers when they leave a property.	
B. Membership	Gilberto shared that, with Nadine’s term expiring in December, the process of finding a replacement for her position can begin on October 1 st . He mentioned he will reach out to Nicanora to start scheduling interviews with the interested caregivers. Gilberto shared that he has not heard back from the two recipients he had previously been in communication with, who initially expressed interest in participating.	
C. IHSS	Abigail shared that IHSS is fully staffed. She shared that there were two different fires, and they contacted clients who were impacted by the fires to share resources with them. Abigail stated that all IHSS staff participated in a training session on customer service, led by Julie Lara. She shared that Dr. Kimberly Giardina, the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of HHSA, is leaving and that her last day will be November 6 th . Abigail introduced two supervisors: Aleyamma Thomas & Heather Flippo.	
D. Community Report	Nicanora shared that the Filipino American Association for Developmental Disabilities will be hosting an event on September 29, 2025, featuring Julie Lara, IHSS Program Specialist. She will present the application process for IHSS, outline the qualification criteria, and address any questions the group may have. She also shared that on September 19, 2025, the Pilipino Workers Center will provide a Disaster Preparedness Training, aiming to reach caregivers outside of IHSS. Nicanora mentioned that those caregivers who are not part of UDW could benefit from this information.	

E. UDW	Nicanora shared, on behalf of Trang from UDW, that there will be Provider Appreciation Day events in Escondido and El Cajon. She also shared a reminder that the IHSS Public Authority will also host a virtual Caregiver Recognition event on November 18 th .	
F. California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA)	Nadine shared, on behalf of Yolanda, that on September 3, 2025, CICA had Clara Ramsey from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) present on H.R. 1 (also known as the “Big, Beautiful Bill”). She shared that, beginning in January 2027, approximately 3.4 million people will lose Medi-Cal, and there will be work requirements for those aged 19-64 who are not disabled. Nadine shared that about 1 million households may lose their CalFresh benefits. She mentioned that \$1.6-\$3.7 billion in annual funding will be lost, as well as other reductions that will affect 827 million people. Nadine shared that this would also put a strain on families, food banks, and properties, leading to increased costs. She shared that ICE’s budget has increased by thirteen times to \$170 billion. Nadine shared that Clara also discussed the Labor Department's changes to the Labor Standards Act, which they are looking to rescind regarding the distribution of funds. She mentioned that the Collective Bargaining Bill is currently under discussion. Nadine shared that Bill AB470 is in suspension.	
G. Public Authority (PA)	Thomas informed the committee that throughout the month of August, he met with the County Board of Supervisors, alongside other County staff, including Dr. Kim Giardina, Amy Thompson (HHSA Finance Director), Jennifer Bransford-Koons (AIS Director), and other County executive staff members. During his portion of the presentation, he provided an overview of the Public Authority. He discussed potential impacts of the program based on current and future legislation. Thomas said it was a great opportunity to highlight the work being done by caregivers and reiterate that the IHSS program is the lowest cost alternative to health care. He said the Board is very supportive of our caregiver population and appreciates their hard work in keeping recipients safely in their own homes. Thomas shared an update on the SB707 Brown Act Bill, which pertains to how Advisory Committees can meet remotely. He said the bill did not pass at this time and will become a two-year bill. Thomas also mentioned that Dr. Kimberly Giardina will be leaving the County on November 6 th and expressed his gratitude for her work with the PA and understanding of the agency’s value to the elderly and disabled population. He shared that on September 2, 2025, the PA held a Semi-Annual Labor Management Committee Meeting, which consisted of UDW, County staff, and PA staff. The meeting was facilitated by UDW, and the next meeting will be facilitated by the PA. Thomas shared that, effective at the beginning of September, caregivers could obtain ID badges on the same day, at the County Operations Center in Clairemont Mesa. He said caregivers could also come to the National City office location,	

	<p>which is the PA headquarters, and a badge will be mailed to them. Thomas thanked UDW for helping to promote the ID badges for caregivers. He said it is not a requirement, but some caregivers like the badge for identification purposes. Thomas shared that the Advisory Committee will need to discuss and vote next month on whether to hold a Holiday Party for the members. He reviewed the Advisory Committee's financial report.</p>	
<p>12. Old Business (discussion and possible action): A. Committee Events: 1. Status of IHSS/PA Annual Report for submission to the County Board of Supervisors– Denise shared the report with the committee and asked for any feedback so that we can prepare to submit this to the County Board of Supervisors. 2. UDW Event- Nadine shared that the event was well attended and that Aude, from the Public Authority Registry, assisted her.</p>		
<p>New Business (discussion and possible action): 1. Proposed Term of Service by Advisory Committee Members – Nicanora mentioned she wanted to table this discussion regarding the proposal to increase the number of years an Advisory Committee member can serve. Nadine suggested obtaining a survey from other Advisory Committees to understand their terms, and the topic will be tabled until the next meeting after obtaining more research and information. 2. CARA Annual Convention/Request to place an Ad in their Digital Program - \$100 for Business Card - Motion to approve placing the Ad by Yolanda. Blanca Seconded. Motion passed.</p>		
<p>13. PUBLIC COMMENT: No comment.</p>		
<p>14. MEMBER COMMENT: Blanca attended a course that was required by the company she works for regarding Transgender, Diverse Gender, and Intersexual (TGI). She mentioned that the state of CA requires caregivers to take these courses to learn to be more sensitive to those for whom they are working for. Blanca shared that if you have EBT benefits, you can go to the San Diego National History Museum for free, among other places. Nadine shared that some grocery stores offer compostable bags in their vegetable sections, which can be used for throwing out food scraps.</p>		
<p>15. NEXT MEETING AGENDA: 10/10/2025</p>		
<p>16. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM</p>		

Minutes prepared by Nicanora Montenegro, Thomas H. Johnson, Denise Bernal, and Leonardo Madrigal