

**IHSS Advisory Board  
Humboldt County**



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**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD  
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
MARGARET LEWIS, CHAIR**

TO: Governing Board of the Humboldt County In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)  
Public Authority

FROM: In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Advisory Board

SUBJECT: Annual Report to Governing Board

**BACKGROUND:**

The IHSS Advisory Board (AB) was established by County Resolution No. 2000-50 on June 6, 2000 and amended by Resolution No. 01-05 on Jan. 9, 2001. This was in response to and in compliance with Assembly Bill 1682, effective July 1, 1999.

The main duties and composition of the board are outlined in this resolution and its amendment.

The AB is composed of IHSS recipients and their families, care providers, elder and disability advocates, and a Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) staff member. The Director of the IHSS Public Authority, IHSS Program Manager and other staff also attend meetings. The main function of the AB is to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on the preferred mode of service delivery and to advise the Board on matters pertaining to IHSS on an ongoing basis.

Other functions are to gather and distribute information on the IHSS program to the recipient and provider community and bring information from the community to IHSS staff; outreach to inform the public about the program; attend and host training for AB members; and form alliances with other advocate organizations.

Initially, the state provided a budget for Advisory Boards of \$56,000 a year. This provided funding for many projects, trainings, and outreach activities. In 2011 that budget was reduced to \$6,000. Naturally, this limited our scope of activities.

There is a State requirement that Advisory Boards report annually to the Board of Supervisors. In the early years of the Humboldt County AB, there were only one or two reports made to the Supervisors. Many years passed with no reports being submitted. As Chairman, I am trying to rectify that and to that end I did report in the Spring of 2022. I intend to continue reports regularly so you may be informed of our concerns and activities.

## REPORT:

After nearly two years of meeting virtually, we are now enjoying in-person/hybrid meetings. Our meeting venue has changed from the county professional building on Fifth Street in Eureka to the Silvercrest Residential Facility. This allows more members of the public and, especially, IHSS recipients, to attend. Many residents of Silvercrest are IHSS recipients and this venue gives them a chance to provide input regarding the program and to become more informed about our Board and its functions.

This year we produced a newsletter (attached) to inform providers and recipients about the recent Electronic Visit Verification required by the State.

We have been working closely with the California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance (CICA). This statewide organization provides networking between Advisory Boards in all of California's counties. Their Executive Committee meets semi-monthly, and they provide statewide training and informational calls to the public. They report on legislation that affects the IHSS program and partner with organizations such as CAPA (California Association of Public Authorities), California Agency on Aging, Independent Living Centers, and California Association of Retired Americans, among others. They are currently working with Homebridge Inc. to produce instructional videos for consumers on the IHSS program and on becoming effective managers of their care providers.

Two of our Board members serve on the CICA Executive Board. Vivian Deniston is a Regional Vice President and I am Secretary.

This winter, we will work with members from Butte County to provide a virtual Regional Conference for the Northern Counties. This will be patterned on the Southern Conference which occurred in October and included seven counties.

Our primary concerns as the IHSS Advisory Board are:

- Care Provider shortage. This is a statewide crisis and there are thousands of IHSS recipients unable to get the care they need.
- Advisory Board member recruitment. There is an eleven-member limit imposed on Advisory Boards by the state. However, many counties, including Humboldt, are seldom able to fill all of the available seats and to muster a quorum for meetings.

We have developed some strategies for dealing with these concerns, but they have been only moderately successful.

Last year, we took out ads in the Times Standard electronic version; The Lost Coast Outpost, also electronic; with Bicoastal Media on radio station KFMI and underwriting with KMUD radio. In addition to these ads, the Public Authority put provider recruitment posters on ETA buses.

This year, we would like to offer stipends to members for attending meetings, as many other counties do. We feel this would provide an incentive for attendance.

We would like to develop a more active relationship with you, our Board of Supervisors. To that end, we invite any or all of you to attend meetings, ask questions and familiarize yourselves more closely with our work. We meet online and in person on the fourth Monday of each month at 2 pm at the Silvercrest Residential Facility, 2141 Tydd St., Eureka.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Lewis, Advisory Board Chairman

Board Members:

- Jack Breazeal
- Vivian Deniston
- Alissa Norman
- Andrew Bushcamp
- Sarah Mixon
- Tim Such