

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:
June 9, 2009
Timed: 2:00 P.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 2009-10 Proposed Budget In The Amount Of \$1,812,084

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.

Recommendations

1. Adopt the attached Fiscal Year 2009-10 Proposed budget in the amount of \$1,812,084.
2. Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the IHSS Public Authority Executive Director to execute a service agreement with Refined Technology Inc. for up to \$18,600.
3. Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the IHSS Public Authority Executive Director to execute a service agreement with AccentCare Inc for up to \$7,500.
4. Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the IHSS Public Authority Executive Director to execute a service agreement with We Print U for up to \$5,000.

Fiscal Impact

Federal, state, and realignment revenues fund the Public Authority's expenses. The IHSS Public Authority's requested Fiscal Year 2009-10 Proposed Budget of \$1,812,084 will be reimbursed from federal and state sources in the amount of \$1,478,524. The IHSS Public Authority's local contribution is solely from a realignment allocation of \$333,560. There is no County General Fund obligation in this Proposed 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 IHSS Public Authority is the employer of record for over 19,000 IHSS caregivers, negotiating for wages, administering negotiated health/dental benefits and overseeing COBRA continuation coverage. The IHSS Public Authority operates a registry, assisting IHSS recipients in finding screened caregivers and also offers classroom and individual education for both caregivers and IHSS recipients. In addition, the IHSS Public Authority publishes a newsletter and offers emergency backup

caregivers when someone's regular caregiver unexpectedly fails to show up and the IHSS recipient would be in a dangerous circumstance without personal care assistance.

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.

DISCUSSION

Registry Services

When the Public Authority's Registry was established in 2002, there were 12,000 IHSS consumers. Today, there are over 20,000 IHSS consumers. Four (currently) Registry Specialists manage the registry services for the IHSS consumers who need to find an available and qualified caregiver. In 2008, 1,575 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. A resolution is requested for a continuing contract for up to \$5,000 with We Print U, a LiveScan service provider for DOJ background checks.

The IHSS Public Authority contracts with Refined Technologies, Inc. (RTI), to provide registry and health benefits software. RTI also provides data processing to determine health benefits eligibility, union dues deductions and data for state reporting. A resolution is requested for a continuing contract for up to \$18,600 with RTI to provide these critical services.

Education

The IHSS Public Authority mandate specifies that education and training be offered to caregivers and consumers. 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, Siena Vista, and the Village Crossing Apartments. Classes are periodically offered in Spanish, Russian, Hmong, and Chinese.

The California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) intern program continues with two bachelor degree and two master degree interns supporting IHSS Public Authority activities. The interns' activities have included the development of a consumer handbook, following-up on registry-referred providers, co-leading support groups, assisting in developing curricula, co-teaching classes to IHSS consumers and caregivers, and co-leading orientations.

Urgent Care Services

Urgent care services began in May 2007, and are delivered via a contract with AccentCare Inc. This service is a safety net for IHSS consumers who have critical personal care needs and their regular caregivers unexpectedly fail to show up for work. For example, a paraplegic who is dependent on assistance to get out of bed, bathe and dress would qualify for urgent care services if his/her regular caregiver had a family emergency that precluded his/her reporting to work.

Urgent care services are not a substitute for vacation coverage or when another caregiver is available (family member, friend, etc.). During 2008, there were 162 requests for services, resulting in 34 actual urgent care responses. The remaining 128 requests, which did not qualify for urgent care services, were assisted by IHSS Public Authority staff in arranging for an alternate caregiver through the registry or some other community service. A resolution is requested for a continuing contract with AccentCare Inc. to provide urgent care services.

Wage/Benefit Negotiations

The current labor agreement, negotiated in 2006, with Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers, West (SEIU-UHW), continues through November 2009. This agreement sets the wage at \$10.40 and contributes \$0.70 per worked hour toward health benefits. The labor agreement provides a formula for calculating funding available for health benefits based on program growth in each calendar year. The monthly Kaiser healthcare renewal premium for 2009 increased by \$62.71 to \$472.97, a 15% increase over the 2008 premium. The premium for dental coverage from United Healthcare held steady at \$11.50 per enrollee per month. Negotiations with the SEIU-UHW determined to hold the IHSS caregiver contribution steady at \$15 per month. This necessitated reduction of enrolled caregivers from 3,439 down to 3,256, a process managed with attrition over six months. The reduction process expanded the wait list for health/dental benefits, which as of May has grown to 1,720, with a wait of over three years once someone is eligible for benefits.

The State of California has capped its contribution toward the IHSS wage at \$9.50, plus \$0.60 for benefits, effective July 1, 2009. The federal government, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has increased its contribution toward the health/benefits package from 50% to 61.6%, offsetting the decrease in state participation. Therefore, the current IHSS provider wage of \$10.40 plus \$0.70 toward health benefits will remain in place beginning July 1, 2009.

The current labor agreement expires at the end of November 2009, and the IHSS Public Authority will begin negotiations with the representative union in the near future.

Staff & Service Reductions

The Fiscal Year 2009-10 Proposed Budget of \$1,812,084 is 22% less than the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09 (\$2,324,550). Accomplishing the current budget level has required both staffing and services reductions. The following positions were eliminated during the Fiscal Year 2008-09 midyear budget hearings: 1.0 FTE Health Educator position, 1.5 FTE Social Worker positions, 1.0 FTE Sr. Office Assistant position.

Additional position and program reductions in this Fiscal Year 2009-10 proposed budget are:

- Eliminate funding for 1.0 FTE Administrative Services Officer II. This position provides development support for website and on-line education activities, newsletter production and graphics oversight, statistical monitoring and quality assurance oversight, contract administration, policy and procedure development, IT and big ticket purchasing oversight, facility changes and research Savings: \$113,303.

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- Eliminate funding for 1.0 FTE Human Services Specialist. This position provides services to IHSS consumers and caregivers who are part of the Caregiver Registry and its elimination will lengthen the time to provide lists to IHSS consumers and to screen caregivers interested in registry participation. Savings: \$67,994.
- Eliminate funding for newsletter mailing. Last year, the IHSS Public Authority reduced its newsletter production from two quarterly newsletters to one newsletter published three times a year. For Fiscal Year 2009-10, the IHSS Public Authority will no longer have the funds to distribute any newsletters. The IHSS Advisory Committee is funding one additional newsletter in Fiscal Year 2009-10. Savings: \$30,654. (Note: It is uncertain whether the IHSSAC will receive its state funding in Fiscal Year 2009-10, so it is uncertain if future newsletters can be developed and sent.)
- Eliminate education service agreements with Eskaton Senior Connection, University of California Cooperative Extension, and American Red Cross. This eliminates all education service contracts, reducing the availability of education services for IHSS caregivers and consumers. Savings: \$23,894.
- Reduce maximum contract amounts with AccentCare Inc. (urgent care) and Refined Technologies, Inc, (registry/benefits software vendor). Reduces by 70% the availability of urgent care services for IHSS consumers and reduces customization services needed to optimize IT services through our software vendor. Savings: \$20,400.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The IHSS Public Authority receives its funding from federal, state and local sources: the local contribution is from realignment (there is no general fund support for the IHSS Public Authority). Each \$1.00 in local contribution draws down \$5.24 in federal/state funding.

The IHSS Public Authority Fiscal Year 2009-10 Proposed Budget of \$1,812,084 is funded by federal, state, and county governments. Federal and state participation is \$1,478,574, with the remaining local match (realignment allocation) of \$333,560.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

BERNADETTE LYNCH, Executive Director
IHSS Public Authority

TERRY SCHUTTEN
County Executive

By: _____
JIM HUNT, Acting Administrator
Countywide Services Agency

Attachments:

Resolution - Fiscal Year 2009-10 Proposed Budget

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Resolution – Refined Technology Associates Data Processing Services Agreement

Resolution – AccentCare Inc. Urgent Care Services Agreement

Resolution- We Print U Services Agreement

Attachment A - Fiscal Year 2009-10 Recommended Proposed Budget