



PUBLIC AUTHORITY
In-Home Supportive Services
San Diego County



**IHSS/PUBLIC AUTHORITY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **San Diego County Board of Supervisors** **A-3**
- **IHSS/Public Authority Advisory Committee
Members and Staff Liaisons** **A-3**
- **Message from the IHSS Public Authority Executive Director** **A-4**
- **IHSS/Public Authority Advisory Committee
Purpose, Authority, and Membership** **A-5**
Community Outreach **A-6**
- **Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Accomplishments** **A-7**
- **Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Goals** **A-8**

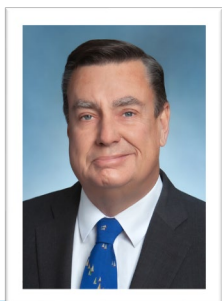
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Serves as the IHSS Public Authority Governing Body



Nora Vargas

District 1
Chairwoman



Joel Anderson

District 2



Terra
Lawson-Remer

District 3
Vice Chair



Monica
Montgomery
Steppe

District 4



Jim Desmond

District 5

IHSS/PUBLIC AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

- Nadine Branch – Caregiver, Chair
- Nicanora Montenegro – Caregiver, Vice Chair
- Ethel Larkins – Caregiver, Aging & Independence Services (AIS) Advisory Council Liaison, Parliamentarian
- Yolanda Ivy – Recipient
- Erica McClure – Recipient
- Marissa Chavez – Caregiver
- Angela Vittucci – Recipient
- Charles Kirtley – Recipient

STAFF LIAISONS

- Thomas H. Johnson – IHSS Public Authority Executive Director
- Wendy J. Garcia – AIS, Deputy Director
- Charity Lerma – AIS, IHSS Program Manager
- Julie Lara – AIS, IHSS Program Specialist
- Abigail Salud – AIS, IHSS Program Manager
- Gilberto Morales – AIS, IHSS Social Work Supervisor
- Ana Molina – IHSS Public Authority, Administrative Secretary

A MESSAGE FROM THE IHSS PUBLIC AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



On behalf of the IHSS Public Authority, I would like to send my appreciation to the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)/Public Authority Advisory Committee for an outstanding year of representing both IHSS recipients and IHSS caregivers. Active members of the Advisory Committee completed the mandatory ethics training (AB 1234) and fulfilled their requirements to participate in-person. This is the result of the Advisory Committee's leadership and diligent work with the County of San Diego (County) and the IHSS Public Authority to ensure that each vacancy was filled. The committee remained dedicated to fulfilling its role as the community voice for older adults and persons with disabilities.

IHSS/Public Authority Advisory Committee members not only shared their input locally but also state-wide with their participation in the California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA). During CICA's meetings, committee members engaged in various trainings and discussions that impact IHSS recipients and IHSS caregivers. They shared their professional and personal experiences and highlighted aspects of the IHSS Public Authority, the IHSS program, and other services available throughout San Diego County.

The IHSS/Public Authority Advisory Committee has an active role in educating county residents about the IHSS Public Authority and IHSS program. During Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024, the committee participated in community events by staffing tables, or as guest panelists. They also participated in focus groups related to service delivery and the recruitment and retention of caregivers.

Committee members were able to lend their expertise as IHSS recipients and IHSS caregivers. They were featured speakers at the 2023 IHSS Public Authority Caregiver Recognition Event. This event had approximately 450 caregivers in attendance and the Chair and Vice Chair were able to provide an overview of the purpose of the Advisory Committee, and their participation in community events, outline training opportunities, explain the membership process, and provide meeting information. The committee has also been featured in the County Health and Human Services Agency, Aging & Independence Services (AIS) Quarterly Bulletin, which reaches approximately 6000 community members, organizations, and stakeholders. These efforts allow members to promote the committee and bring awareness to the services offered by the IHSS Public Authority and the IHSS program.

The Advisory Committee members continue to display their positive impact. They have had a significant role in ensuring the IHSS program meets the needs of recipients and caregivers. Their efforts to improve IHSS service delivery are commendable. On behalf of the IHSS Public Authority and the individuals we serve, I want to thank the committee members for helping older adults and persons with disabilities live safely in their own homes!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. H. Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Thomas H. Johnson
Executive Director
IHSS Public Authority

IHSS/PUBLIC AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PURPOSE, AUTHORITY, AND MEMBERSHIP



The Advisory Committee is advisory in nature and is not empowered by ordinance, establishing authority, or policy to render a decision of any kind on behalf of the County of San Diego, the IHSS Public Authority, or its appointed or elected officials.

California Welfare and Institutions Code section 12301.6 provides that each county shall appoint an Advisory Committee where the Board of Supervisors is the governing body. The Advisory Committee has nine members in which not less than fifty-one percent (51%) of the individuals are current or past users of personal assistance services paid for through public or private funds, or as recipients of In-Home Supportive Services.

The Advisory Committee provides information and recommendations to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and other persons or entities related to the delivery of In-Home Supportive Services and IHSS Public Authority services. The Advisory Committee is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, and non-profit making organization. It does not take part officially in, nor does it lend its influence on political issues.



**The Advisory Committee meets
on the second Friday of each month.**



IHSS/PUBLIC AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Advisory Committee increased the awareness of resources and community partners through several presentations throughout the year.

- Legislative & Budget Process: How to Engage by Insure the Uninsured Project
- Path-Now: Services for People with Disabilities
- Disability Rights California
- In-Home Supportive Services Overview – County of San Diego
- Access to Independence Services & Program
- Power of Attorney & Conservatorships by Stech Law
- California Association of Public Authorities



The Advisory Committee maintained their strong presence and involvement in the community. During Fiscal Year 2023-2024 they participated in the following events:

- First Wednesday Community Health & Resource Fair at Jackie Robinson Family YMCA
- Filipino American Association Development Disabilities Event
- IHSS Public Authority Caregiver Recognition Event
- CICA of the South
- Grossmont Healthcare District and Grossmont High School District Career Panel
- Developmental Disabilities Provider Network Leading the Charge Conference
- Diverse Research Now
- Cooper Family Foundation Juneteenth Celebration

IHSS/PUBLIC AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In November 2023, Presented at the Annual IHSS Public Authority Caregiver Appreciation Event which was attended by approximately 450 caregivers.

Participated in the California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance (CICA), in which the committee Chair served as Regional Vice President.

Actively participated in the implementation of a caregiver discussion group and quarterly joint meetings between IHSS and the San Diego Regional Center

Attended various community events throughout San Diego County and spread awareness about the committee and the In-Home Supportive Services Program



Featured in the Summer 2023 quarterly AIS Bulletin

Ensured compliance by completing the required (AB1234) Ethics Training with a 100% completion rate.

Maintained membership at 89%



IHSS/PUBLIC AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 GOALS

- Continue collaborating with agencies to increase awareness of the In-Home Supportive Services program and the IHSS/PA Advisory Committee.
- Continue to participate in community outreach activities and integrate more effective ways to collect community feedback.
- Continue to explore ways to train IHSS recipients and help them increase their confidence in their role as employers.
- Committee members will continue to complete trainings on topics such as advocacy and legislation to help them become stronger in their roles as advocates, consumers/caregivers, and advisors of the program.
- Continue to be featured in the quarterly AIS Bulletin. A publication that reaches, approximately 6000 community members, organizations, and stakeholders to share information and resources relevant to the IHSS Program and the IHSS/Public Authority Advisory Committee.
- Strengthen communication and relationship with the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and continue to provide feedback on the In-Home Supportive Services Program.

