



**IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES/PUBLIC AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**February 13, 2026, 12:45 PM**

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

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

Meeting ID: 859 707 8275

Passcode: 172598

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| <b>1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 12:49 PM.</b>   |  |  |  |
| <b>2. Attendance</b>  |  |  |  |
| Members   |  | Absent Members                                   | Guests                                   |
| Nicanora Montenegro<br>Angela Vittucci<br>Blanca Paulin<br>Cindy Greatrex   |  |  | Nadine Branch<br>Cesar & Purita Javier   |
| Members via Zoom  | AIS/IHSS Staff   | IHSS Public Authority                            | Guest – via Zoom                         |
| Russell Evans<br>Charles Kirtley<br>Sabrina Bishop<br>Yolanda Ivy   | Abigail Salud<br>Gilberto Contreras-Morales<br>Joyce Palanca<br>Hien Trang | Thomas H. Johnson<br>Denise Bernal<br>Ana Molina | Melissa Barling<br>Raquel Ramirez Torres |
| <b>3. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM: Done.</b>  |  |  |  |
| <b>4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Done.</b>   |  |  |  |
| <b>5. INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.</b>  |  |  |  |
| <b>6. MEETING CODE OF CONDUCT REVIEW: Cindy reviewed the code of conduct.</b>   |  |  |  |
| <b>7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Cindy motioned to approve the amended agenda, and Charles seconded. Motion Passed.</b>  |  |  |  |
| <b>8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Yolanda motioned; Charles seconded. Motion passed.</b>   |  |  |  |
| <b>9. CHAIR REPORT:</b> Nicanora shared that on 1/29/26, she attended a Greet and Meet dinner for Gubernatorial Candidate Betty Yee, who was California’s former State Controller and is known to IHSS caregivers. It was organized by Fil-Am leaders and attended by the FAADD Lions Club, IHSS caregivers, including Nadine, and other stakeholders. Nicanora shared her concern about knowing her governance platform regarding IHSS and Medical/Medicare budgets. |  |  |  |



**10. Presentation: United Domestic Workers (UDW) Overview by Sabrina Bishop.** Sabrina shared the benefits and services for caregivers, including life insurance, medical coverage, and educational opportunities, while addressing details about membership meeting dates and insurance details. She discussed upcoming CPR training for caregivers and will follow up with the committee to determine whether it is for caregivers with UDW or open to all caregivers. A written report from UDW was distributed to those in person and those who requested it by email.

**11. REPORTS**

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| <p>A. Aging &amp; Independence Services (AIS) Advisory Council</p> | <p>Sabrina reported that she attended the AIS Advisory Council Meeting on 2/9/26, where they discussed that the Section 8 waitlist is closed. She also mentioned concerns that Medicare Advantage enrollment plans are causing seniors to lose \$1,200 due to outdated cost-sharing formulas. Sabrina commented that there are plans for a presentation on polypharmacy and medication safety among elderly individuals. Sabrina shared that there will also be a presentation for public pharmacy due to an increase in falls. She reported that Julie Lara gave a great presentation on the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program and case management. Sabrina mentioned that IHSS social workers are visiting senior centers and complexes to spread awareness about IHSS. Cindy asked if caregiver recruitment efforts are being made at local colleges, and Thomas confirmed that there are. Thomas said he would have the Public Authority team highlight the PA's effort the next time they give an overview presentation.</p>   |  |
| <p>B. Membership</p>   | <p>Gilberto shared that he left messages for a former Advisory Committee member who recently expressed interest in rejoining the committee.</p>  |  |
| <p>C. IHSS</p>   | <p>Abigail reported that she attended the AIS Advisory Council meeting and was present for Julie's presentation. She mentioned that after the State of Emergency was lifted post-COVID, social workers were required to return to recipients' homes. Abigail says the State has released new telehealth reassessment regulations to allow for telehealth visits again. She mentioned that social workers determine eligibility, and recipients must have no new caregivers, not be hospitalized within that year, and cannot do telehealth assessments for consecutive years. Abigail reported that the new caregiver's wage will be \$20.40 on 3/1/26. She mentioned that AIS' new Interim Assistant Director is Brynn Viale. Abigail shared that social workers are fully staffed and that there are two social work supervisor vacancies, for which they have begun the interview process. She shared that they have a safety Dog Bite Prevention training in February. Abigail introduced two supervisors, Joyce Palanca and Hien Trang. Nadine asked about a caregiver driving a recipient to Los Angeles for surgery and whether that would be covered under</p> |  |



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|   | <p>IHSS for her time and travel. Hien and Abigail advised that the recipient call their social worker, as there may be a change in condition that qualifies for more hours. Nicanora asked about parents with children with disabilities not being able to work. Hien shared that for IHSS, there are regulations that use age-appropriate guidelines. Social workers determine whether there are extraordinary needs, as defined by regulations, and whether they are eligible for hours. He also said that parents can appeal if they are not satisfied with the number of hours granted.</p>  |  |
| D. Community Report                         | <p>Nicanora shared that the Normal Heights Masonic Lodge is sponsoring a Spring Dance for Challenged Individuals on 3/29/26 from 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM, located at 3366 Adams Ave, San Diego, CA 92116. It is a free event for individuals with developmental disabilities, with food, games, prizes, and free parking available for the first 30 vehicles. She also mentioned a free Health and Wellness Fair organized by the National Federation of Filipino American Associations, and the Buy Filipino Network will take place on 3/21/26 from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM at El Toyon Park in National City. She invited the IHSS/PA Advisory Committee to see if they want to have a booth at the fair, with Blanca confirming her attendance and requesting Nadine or Cindy to join. Nicanora said she will send Denise the flyers once she receives them, so they can be shared with the members and AIS to see if they can also staff a booth. She also shared that the Abilities Expo in Los Angeles is on 3/27/26 through 3/29/26, and the committee approved amending the agenda to include a vote to send two representatives, along with a backup. Nadine shared that in the past, the Advisory Committee had participated in the San Diego Regional Center’s “Leading the Charge,” which will be on 4/16/26, and asked if AIS would also be interested in hosting a booth. Nadine will be sending out information to share.</p> |  |
| E. UDW                                      | <p>Sabrina shared that there will be a membership meeting on 2/28/26 from 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM, during which Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and gas cards will be distributed. She shared that UDW is welcoming new members and encouraging other caregivers to join and continue empowering the program.</p>  |  |
| F. California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA) | <p>Yolanda reported that Luis Bravo, the Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Public Authority, shared that the Backup Provider Services (BUPS) Program will be eliminated per the Governor’s budget proposal. She encouraged caregivers and recipients to share their personal stories with their legislators and voice their concerns. Nadine advised Thomas that at the last meeting, she invited Meredith to share at a CICA meeting. She also mentioned that on 3/17/26 there will be a CICA Lunch n’ Learn from 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM.</p>   |  |



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| <p>G. Public Authority (PA)</p>  | <p>Thomas reiterated the difficult news that the BUPS program is being eliminated. He shared that the San Diego County PA has been a leader in this space, handling about 568 requests in the last fiscal year. Thomas shared that the PA has a dedicated staff for this program, but without the funding, they are no longer able to sustain those operations. He stated that data showed that smaller counties use BUPS far less than larger counties. Thomas commented that individuals could share their personal testimonies about the benefits of the program if they would like to do so. Thomas shared that he spoke with Wendy Garcia, AIS Deputy Director of Operations, to inquire about an AIS presentation requested by the advisory committee. She agreed that AIS staff could give a presentation and that it would be scheduled for the near future. He also mentioned that Joanne Chen from the SDSU's Academy for Professional Excellence would like to share her caregiving story at a future Advisory Committee meeting. Thomas shared it's been a month since becoming the President of the California Association of Public Authorities (CAPA). He said he's been learning a lot and enjoys sharing the amazing work being done in San Diego, as well as regularly meeting with CAPA's Executive Director. Thomas thanked Denise for her support with this initiative and mentioned that he is still part of the CAPA's Data Committee and the Legislative Committee. In addition to that, he also leads the CAPA Executive Committee. Thomas stated that there will be a Labor Management Committee Meeting on 3/4/26, which will include individuals from the Public Authority, County, UDW, and the County's Labor Relations Department. One item they will discuss is the new Public Authority "Caregiver Wellness Project", which is being led by two SDSU interns, and other County wellness programs. Thomas also reviewed the Advisory Committee's financial report.</p> |  |
| <p><b>12. Old Business (discussion and possible action):</b></p> <p><b>1. Update on Parliamentary Training Options</b>– Denise reviewed two different quotes for in-person and remote training. The committee decided to add this item to the next agenda to take a vote and possibly schedule the training for July.</p>  |  |  |
| <p><b>New Business (discussion and possible action):</b></p> <p><b>1. Status of the Town Hall Subcommittee</b> – Cindy shared that the subcommittee had their first initial meeting and plans to hold three meetings per year, skipping the fourth quarter, and will reach out to various communities both in person and virtually. She shared that they are searching for people to attend the meeting who are blind, aging, or have disabilities. Cindy noted that Denise is working on facilitating a meeting with the subcommittee, Thomas, and AIS leadership. After that meeting, the subcommittee will reconvene. Thomas requested that the subcommittee provide him with their proposal for the Town Halls to share with AIS leadership.</p> |  |  |



2. **Vote on Advisory Committee Member Volunteers to attend the Abilities Expo –** Angela motioned to include this item on the agenda, and Russell seconded. Motion passed. A vote was taken to send two representatives, Cindy and Angela, to the Abilities Expo, with Yolanda as backup pending budget review.

**13. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Cesar suggested a protocol regarding health and safety topics to be discussed at the meetings and for the Advisory Committee to report and expand data collection. Nicanora shared that the Advisory Committee is in the process of inviting various speakers to address additional health, safety, and environmental topics.

**14. MEMBER COMMENT:** Angela shared that her past caregiver has not returned to work for her and has kept her house keys; therefore, she feels unsafe and asked what she can do. Thomas explained that she can go to law enforcement because she feels unsafe. He also stated that he would ensure that an APS Report is filed on Angela's behalf by the Public Authority, immediately following the meeting, and that she should be on standby for someone to contact her for follow-up information.

**15. NEXT MEETING AGENDA: 3/13/2026**

**16. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:29 PM**

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