

Butte County In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

Advisory Committee Meeting

August 12, 2025

10:00am – 12:00 pm

Condor Room, 765 East Avenue

Chico, California

1. Call to Order – Mark Gordon, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Mark Gordon, Chair. Committee members attended were Sarah May, Vice Chair, Kristi Sherer, Kara Hall, Melinda Rayford and Emily Upton. Facilitator Terri Petersen was also present.

2. Sarah May, Vice Chair, announced that a quorum was not present.

3. As a quorum was not present, the approval of May 13, 2025, minutes were tabled for the November meeting.

4. Kristi Sherer, DESS Assistant Director, provided updates for DESS. Changes to the federal budget are affecting IHSS services in the county. Different types of care within the program are funded by different sources. There are changes to the penalties imposed by the state and federal governments for timeliness of approvals of cases. Currently, Butte County is concentrating on approval of CFCO (California First Choice Option) cases. While specific allocations are not in yet, administration is significantly underfunded and the four vacant IHSS social worker positions have been terminated. There are nine social workers in the department and three QA positions. This level of staffing presents challenges. The number of cases within the county are up by five to seven percent while there is less money available in the budget. A CL telehealth assessment will be implemented to increase efficiency of case approval. Butte County uses 90% of electronic forms, and the goal is to standardize forms statewide. Plans are in place to process overdue cases and then to implement a schedule of processing CFCO cases in the first two weeks of each month.

While the department has always been notably underfunded, these budget shortfalls are having a significant effect.

There are approximately 4750 IHSS cases at present, with about 2100 CFCO. 20 to 25% of cases are for minors. Inter-county transfer cases are up and are especially challenging for the department. These must be seen in person for intake and reassessment and must be processed within 90 days. There are more transfer cases coming into the county than are leaving. There has been an increase in Spanish speaking cases and they currently number approximately 300.

Funding for Adult Protective Services appears solid for now. The California Department of Housing has dedicated 82.8 million for the Home Safe program, though no allocation has been made for Butte County to date.

The funds are available to help recipients with expenses such as rent, utilities and deposits to keep them housed. Public Health nurses from APS can make home visits and help fill out IHSS forms.

The challenges facing the department are how to best serve the needs of clients well and efficiently.

5. Kara Hall, Supervisor of Referral and Registry for IHSS, Public Authority. Provided a report.

Recruiting new providers for the registry is going well. Orientations on how to enroll as a provider are being held at job fairs. The cost of necessary fingerprinting continues to be a barrier for potential providers. Emails regarding client availability are being sent to existing providers. There are currently 73 providers on the registry.

There are no updates regarding new legislation. AB 283, with provisions for collective bargaining agreements with providers, is not expected to pass. Barriers include the many differences in counties within the state, the fact that counties are opposed to the legislation and the tremendous, expected cost to the state. There was report from CAPA as they did not meet this month.

6. There is no report for CICA

7. There were no public attendees at this meeting.

8. The next meeting of this committee will be held November 18, 2025.

9. The meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.