

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA

For the Agenda of:
June 9, 2009

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: Report Back On Social Worker Reductions In In-Home Supportive Services Program

Contact: Ann Edwards-Buckley, Acting Director, 875-2002

Background

During the May 14, 2009 Budget Workshop, the Department of Health and Human Services was requested to report back how the reduction in social worker positions and increase in caseloads would impact program integrity and oversight in the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program.

Discussion

The 2009-10 proposed reduction of 35.6 IHSS social worker positions is compounded by the 2008-09 mid-year reduction of 24.0 positions, for a total loss of 59.6 social worker positions in the IHSS program. This total reduction in IHSS staff would leave more than 9,000 cases without an assigned social worker to provide case management.

The full impact of losing 59.6 social worker positions in IHSS will:

- Increase the number of IHSS recipients in residual status (increasing County payment participation to 35%, instead of 13.44% (without residual status) (under enhanced federal revenue – FMAP)
- Increase the number of telephone assessments for readjustments of hours.
- Increase the number of overdue renewals.
- Delay intake assessments, resulting in inability to meet the 30-day mandate.
- Reduce the capacity of the program to effectively respond to suspicions and allegations of fraud.
- Decrease the QA Unit's ability to review IHSS cases for effectiveness of work, uniformity of assessments, efficacy of the time for task allocations, and to ensure all policies and regulations are being met.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPROVED:
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By: _____
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