

IHSS/PA Advisory Committee Teleconference Meeting Minutes

March 18th, 2026

3:00 PM

Meeting Location:

4245 Market Street Suite 213

Ventura, CA 93003

X	James Importante (CEO's Office)	X	Dan Siagian
	Aracely Preciado (non-voting)	X	Leticia Ortega (non-voting)

Item #	Topic	Discussion
1.	Call to order	<i>Meeting called to order at 3:12 PM by Leticia Ortega.</i>
2.	Public Comments	<p>Public comments received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tony Morales, Management Analyst from the County Executive Office's Budget and Finance Division, was introduced as the incoming analyst who will be assuming the IHSS budget assignment from James Importante by July 1st. James Importante noted he will remain as a committee member; Tony is attending to familiarize himself with the program and committee.
3.	Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 21, 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed by committee members. Motion to approve minutes. First by James Importante and second by Dan Siagian. Motion passed.
4.	Advisory Committee Business	<p>Applicant Interview – Ashley Pope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee interviewed Ashley Pope for a Consumer category seat on the Advisory Committee. Motion made by James Importante to recommend Ashley Pope for appointment under the Consumer category. Motion seconded by Dan Siagian. Motion passed. Public Authority staff will submit paperwork for Ashley Pope's recommended appointment to the Board of Supervisors. <p>Update on Previously Recommended Applicants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rizwana "Riz" Jmari is continuing with the appointment process. Mary Ellen Thompson withdrew from consideration as she was unable to commit to in-person attendance requirements. Anne Taylor Hanlon was confirmed as the next recommendation for the Community Based Organization seat in place of Mary Ellen Thompson. Both committee members expressed no objections. Public Authority staff will submit paperwork for all recommended applicants. <p>Committee Membership Status</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the pending appointments of Ashley Pope, Rizwana Jmari, and Anne Taylor Hanlon, the committee will have five voting members. • Provider seats remain vacant. No provider applications have been received. • Committee discussed outreach efforts to recruit provider representatives and will explore options through partner organizations.
5.	Union Update	No union representative was present. No update provided.
6.	Public Authority Update	<p>IHSS Budget Cut Proposals – State Budget 2026-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leticia presented an overview of proposed cuts in the Governor's 2026-2027 State Budget, as requested by the California Association of Public Authorities (CAPA), which has asked advisory committees statewide to consider submitting a letter opposing the proposed IHSS-related bills. • Three key budget proposals were reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IHSS Cost Growth / Cost Shift: The state proposes to establish a statewide average for IHSS hours per case. Any county that exceeds the statewide average would be responsible for the additional costs, shifting the financial burden from the state to the counties. ○ Elimination of the IHSS Residual Program: Staff noted the committee should review how many Ventura County recipients are currently in this program and the local impact of elimination. ○ Elimination of the Backup Provider System: This program provides a temporary provider to an IHSS recipient who has an urgent and immediate need that cannot be met by an existing provider. • Committee noted importance of reassuring recipients that they qualify for IHSS. A fact sheet or informational communication may be developed to keep recipients and providers informed. • Committee members will receive CAPA-provided letter template to committee members electronically, along with supporting materials including the CSAC 2026-2027 Governor's Budget summary. Committee members may review the template and provide input. • Discussion tabled for continuation at the next meeting. <p>General Program Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IHSS program and the Public Authority's provider pool continues to grow. • The current County hiring freeze has impacted staffing resources. • Public Authority is working on provider training opportunities and hopes to finalize details before the end of the fiscal year.
7.	Next Meeting and Agenda Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Cut Letter (continued discussion)
8.	Adjournment	<i>Meeting adjourned at 3:56 PM.</i>

Next meeting, April 15th, 2026