MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 12, 2020
RE: Public Comment Submitted for the May 12, 2020 In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority Board Meeting

Pursuant to current State Public Health directives to shelter-in-place and practice social distancing due to the COVID19 pandemic, and as authorized by Governor Gavin Newsom’s Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, the meeting was closed to the public and all non-essential County staff. Members of the Board of Supervisors and essential County staff participated either in person or telephonically. Members of the public were encouraged to participate remotely from a safe location by submitting comments electronically.

Enclosed please find the public comment related to the May 12, 2020 In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority Board Meeting.

Sincerely

Ashley Snyder
Ashley Snyder
Assistant Clerk of the Board
To the Clerk of the Board:

I am respectfully submitting Public Comment in reference to IHSS, specifically section 5.01 on the May 12th agenda re: Labor Negotiations.

Attached are 13 public comments regarding this specific item on the Agenda.

In Solidarity,

Kesha Haynie
Butte County Organizer
United Domestic Workers Of America
AFSCME-Local 3930/AFL-CIO
2555 Zanella Way
Chico CA, 95928
Office (530) 894-2702
Cell (530) 680-1661
Dear Honorable Supervisors,

I hope this letter finds you well: My name is Kesha Haynie and I am the Butte County Union Representative for United Domestic Workers of America, proudly serving our members in Butte County.

While it is true around the world that COVID-19 has caused everyone’s life to come to a screeching halt, IHSS Homecare workers are not able to halt or take a break from providing the level of care that is required to keep their recipients safe and healthy from this deadly COVID-19 disease.

Income inequality specifically is one of the most visible challenges that IHSS Homecare workers face in Butte County. It is an issue that has hindered Butte County for over 9 years now from bargaining in good faith to provide a fair contract for IHSS Homecare workers; when looking at their budget trying to decide who or what takes precedence over IHSS Homecare workers; those who were classified by the Governor of California as “essential workers” because they too are on the frontlines working overtime taking care of our most vulnerable in our community such as our seniors, those with disabilities, and those with compromising immune systems.

I believe that during these challenging times if IHSS Homecare workers are forced to continue to suffer income inequality at the hands of this Board, this will leave more seniors and those with disabilities without the freedom to live at home, with the dignity and respect they deserve while aging gracefully in the comfort of their own homes.

Home Care Workers in Butte County are the heroes in our community that make this freedom possible.

In order to address the Income inequality, Butte County has to provide an opportunity for the IHSS workforce to thrive by increasing the wage. I am asking that you vote “yes” to a wage increase.

We all have a God given mandate to take care of those that are the most vulnerable people among us...our seniors, disabled, widow’s etc., and there will come a day when we will all have to give an account as to how we treated our fellow sisters and brothers while living here on this ,, and when given every opportunity to do what was right by them…. we made a choice not to afford them the same quality of life that we were afforded….we will be judged!!
In Solidarity,
Kesha Haynie
Butte County Board of Supervisors

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Carrella Marks; I am an IHSS provider and County representative for United Domestic Workers (UDW). I have worked as a provider predominately all my life when I was located in Louisiana. At this moment I am caring for my ailing father-in-law who was diagnosed with dementia, heart trouble and other health care concerns. He requires mostly around the clock supervision of my husband, my son and daughter to keep and on him when it is necessary for me to leave the house. My son and daughter are IHSS providers with a work permit and are supervised by my niece. This allows me and my husband to work a few hours in my County Representative position and odd jobs within Butte County to earn a little more.

I support the movement to increase the pay for IHSS providers. An IHSS provider plays many important parts in the lives of those we care for. We do the work of a CNA when needed, therapist, chiefs, transporters, providing wound care, changing diapers because of cognitive issues, and giving medication meal prep and feeding. We are sometimes on our feet the majority of the day making sure that the recipient is cared for properly and safely. The amount of care we IHSS providers give exceeds the wages we receive. and may require overtime at such little pay. We are asking to be paid for the above minimum wage.

We have watched the Board of Supervisors vote unanimous to appropriate and solicit funds for the jail to be repaired. Is the value of human life less important than a roof on a building? It is the duty of the Board of Supervisors to advocate for funding to sustain the IHSS program, which saves the state money.

Voting yes to a pay raise for IHSS providers will continue to save the state money, keep the elderly citizens of this community at home where they can live with dignity and respect, and bridge the gap in the shortage of providers here in Butte County.

Thank You,

Carrella Marks

Carrella Marks
To Whom It May Concern:

I am an IHSS provider. I have been caring for family members for over 20 years. With that being said, the life of an IHSS provider is not easy work and requires a lot of emotional, and physical demands to those that I provide care for.

IHSS providers wages are at $13 per hr. and the essentials I need to survive and thrive in this economy is rising while wages are staying below a livable wage. I know that IHSS providers will never reach a wage that is truly a wage that is livable which creates a financial hardship for me if my wages are not meeting my basic need demands such as housing, food, gas, etc.

Voting yes to a pay raise and opening up the health care for more providers for IHSS providers will continue to save the state money, keep the elderly citizens of this community at home where they can live with dignity and respect, bridge the gap in the shortage of providers here in Butte County.

Thank you,

Johnnie Herald

Johnnie Herald
To Whom it may Concern:

My name is Laura Ledesma. I have been an IHSS provider for approximately 5 years on and off. Since I am mostly retired, I am very part-time doing IHSS. Trying to live on minimum wage is frustrating, given that my client requires very special needs and I find that I have to put her needs above my own, including financially (recently paid for her yard to be done since it’s not an authorized duty and she couldn’t afford to have it done). Also, not having access to health care is unfair, in my opinion. I would also like to see IHSS workers be eligible for sick leave no matter how many hours we work. I only work 3 hours a day, but if I am sick and cannot work, it makes a significant negative effect on my paycheck.

Voting yes to a pay raise for IHSS providers will continue to save the state money, keep the elderly citizens of this community at home where they can live with dignity and respect, and bridge the gap in the shortage of providers here in Butte County.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (530) 282*0537.
To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Charles Ruffino, I am asking you Board of Supervisors to vote YES on our Udw contract. Us Providers in Butte County are making minimum wage and can barley stay afloat. I had to leave my job to be a fulltime provider. My son’s care requires his medical care in Stanford, and it can be financially tight. Today our contract will be brought to you and I would like to leave you with this, I would never complain about working for free because I would do it anyways and I am grateful for IHSS program I just ask that you support us who are doing the best with what we got. Please support our increase and continue with our health benefits and Vote yes.

Thank you,

Charles Ruffino
Butte Board of Supervisors

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello my name is Raymi Robinson, I have been a care provider for fifteen years and as a single mother of two I am grateful for employment that being said I work really hard every day without proper health care or wages. If I get hurt or sick my children undoubtedly suffer in some way. Making ends meet has become somewhat of an artform. I am so thankful that UDW is looking out for me.

Voting yes to a pay raise and opening up the health care for more providers for IHSS providers will continue to save the state money, keep the elderly citizens of this community at home where they can live with dignity and respect, and bridge the gap in the shortage of providers here in Butte County.

Thank you for your time consideration.

Raymi Robinson
Raymi Robinson
Butte Board of Supervisors

To whom it may concern:

My name is Yolanda Robinson. I've been a IHSS worker since 2002. I first became a worker to take care of my daughter who was born at 25 weeks gestation. She was born with cerebral palsy and infantile hydrocephalus. In the beginning the IHSS checks help but eventually I had to get jobs outside the home because I didn't make enough money to care for my family but too much for public assistance.

Eventually I took over care for my father which aloud me to get health care but unbeknownst to the health care that the program offers don't cover much. So now I'm stuck with a income that's not enough to provide but too much to get assistance and in the last year the health coverage has left me with thousands of dollars in medical bills and some elements not covered. So I'm asking for higher pay and better health coverage we don’t want it we need it.

Thank you,

Yolanda Robinson
Good Morning Board,

My name is Isabel Lopez. I have been an IHSS provider for 25 years and I am here today to ask you to please vote: YES, on our UDW contract that will be brought before you. As the County recognizes we are essential and provide care for our most delicate population we are asking to VOTE YES! Having an expired contract is no way to support our community.

Thank you

Isabel Lopez

Buenos Días,

Mi nombre es Isabel López. He sido proveedora de IHSS durante 25 años y hoy estoy aquí para pedirle que vote: Sí, en nuestro contrato UDW que se le presentará. Como el Condado reconoce que somos esenciales y brindamos atención a nuestra población más delicada, ¡pedimos VOTAR SÍ! Tener un contrato vencido no es una forma de apoyar a nuestra comunidad.

Gracias,

Isabel Lopez
Butte Board of Supervisors

Dear Board of Supervisors:
Lucero, Lambert, Ritter, Connelly, Teeter

My name is Aurora, a UDW member and I am a proud resident of Butte County, most importantly I have been an IHSS Provider for the last 10 years. I worked in in a Hotel where I made a decent livable wage and the financial burden was not so heavy for my family. When working for the Hotel company I met someone who needed care and could not find a provider to remain safely her home. Due to the lack of providers I soon became an IHSS Provider. To see our seniors/adults/kids age and have the thrive to live with dignity and independence is a rewarding for me but ultimately life saving for them. I am writing you this letter/comment to ask you to VOTE YES on our UDW Contract. We ask that you stand with us who provide care for our most vulnerable, seniors, and adults with disabilities. We need to be advocates for the providers. We deserve a livable wage. This raise would mean a little extra sense of security.

Please VOTE YES!

Thank You,
Aurora Galvan – De Mojica
Tyriniki Davis  
P.O.Box 1585  
Oroville, CA 95965  

May 11, 2020  

To Whom It May Concern;  

I Tyriniki Davis, an IHSS Provider, Para Educator and a student, working in Butte County. I have been working as an IHSS Provider almost a year. I love working with the elderly and disable students. As a Para Educator my tasks are easy compared to my job as an IHSS Provider. Also my pay as an educator is more than my pay as a provider.

The situation as a provider in Butte County is extremely complex as follows;  
1.) The position is in high demand meaning works should be able to demand a pay raise.  
2.) We’re paid minimum wage for performing several professions under the title of a Provider.  
3.) Providers can’t afford to strike because it would jeopardize the health of over ,100,000 Recipients.

You the Board of Supervisors have the power to make this program successful or obsolete. I’m asking that you vote yest for IHSS Providers in Butte County to get a raise.

Thank you,  

Tyriniki Davis  

Tyriniki Davis
Ray Fleming  
P.O. Box #1585  
Oroville, CA 95965  

May 11, 2020  

To Whom It May Concern;  

I Ray Fleming recently registered in Butte County as an IHSS Provider, despite my own severe medical conditions, after my father was hospitalized because he became unresponsive.  

My Father has a progressing disease that affects his brain's ability to function. Since caring for my father I'm doing the work myself. Working as an IHSS Provider is strenuous physically and mentally.  

We shouldn't have to request and extension on our PGE bill because we’re being paid minimum wage and can’t afford the cost of living. I’m asking Butte County Board of Supervisors to vote yes to IHSS Provider receiving a pay raise.  

The $0.50 raise will decrease mental and financial stress of my fellow providers. For me because my father was given a few month to live, it would allow me the freedom to spend these next few months collection memories of him before he leaves this earth.  

Thank You,  

Ray Fleming  

Ray Fleming