

**IHSS Advisory Board  
Humboldt County**



**Dignity Independence**

Humboldt County  
In-Home Supportive Services Advisory Board  
humboldt.gov/IHSSAdBoard  
808 E St., Eureka, CA 95501  
707-476-2100



In Home Supportive Services Advisory Board  
Report to Humboldt County Board of Supervisors  
Spring, 2026

### Introduction

The IHSS Advisory Board (AB) was established by County Resolution No. 2000-50 on June 6, 2000 and amended by Resolution No. 01-05 on Jan. 9, 2001. This was in response to and in compliance with State Assembly Bill 1682, effective July 1, 1999.

The main duties and composition of the board are outlined in this resolution and its amendment. The AB is composed of IHSS recipients and their families, care providers, elder and disability advocates, a community member and a Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) staff member. The Director of the IHSS Public Authority, IHSS Program Manager and other staff also attend meetings. The main function of the AB is to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on the preferred mode of service delivery and to advise the Board on matters pertaining to IHSS on an ongoing basis.

Other functions are to gather and distribute information on the IHSS program to the recipient and provider communities and bring information from the community to IHSS staff; outreach to inform the public about the program; attend and host trainings for AB members; and form alliances with other advocate organizations.

We currently have seven members, with vacant seats designated for a care provider, three recipients, and a community member

I'd like to tell you a little bit about our members:

I am Margaret Lewis, Chair. I am a retired care provider, a job I held for over 20 years. I am also a musician and played with the Eureka Symphony for over ten years. I currently work part time at the Garberville Branch of the Humboldt County Library.

Vivian Deniston is our Vice-Chair. She enjoys being involved in our community, serving as an advocate for the disabled as a board member of HCAR. She also works to ensure that IHSS providers are represented locally and believes everyone should volunteer in their community.

Jack Breazeal is the Humboldt County DHHS Behavioral Health Deputy Director and serves on the Advisory Board as our DHHS staff member.

Andrew Bushcamp is a recipient, has served on the Advisory Board since its inception and is a member of our Outreach Committee.

Corbett Peterson is a care provider and has been on the Advisory Board for two years.



Tim Such is a recipient and comes from a legal background. He has been on the Advisory Board for four years.

Miyiosha Aubrey (Mimi), our newest member, is the elder social worker for the Trinidad Rancheria. She also sits on the board of A1AA and is a member of Congress Of Racial Equality and the Domestic Violence Prevention Council.

Our projects this year:

**Outreach:** We have identified fourteen counties in California that do not have Advisory Boards. We are addressing some of these counties in the Northern Region by attending their Board of Supervisors' meetings and explaining during open time that Advisory Boards are mandated by the State of California, suggesting that they form one for their county and offering any help and support needed. We have visited Del Norte and Trinity Counties and have plans to visit Siskiyou and Tehama this spring.

**Education:** We were a sponsor for the A1AA 2025 Elder Rights Summit last June. We tabled at this event and distributed information on the Advisory Board and care provider recruitment. We plan to table at other events this spring and summer.

**Community outreach:** This spring, we have placed ads in the North Coast Journal, bought underwriting on KMUD Radio and will have banner posters on ETA buses for care provider recruitment and Advisory Board membership.

We are still active with the California In Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance, or CICA. CICA is a statewide coalition of Advisory Board members that provides statewide calls twice a month to inform and educate members and the general public about legislative issues, changes to the IHSS program, and other pertinent topics such as: transitioning from hospital to home care, emergency resources and planning, legal issues pertaining to IHSS, Advisory Board budgeting, Medi-Cal updates, elder fraud and abuse and more.

CICA also coordinated virtual regional meetings with the Public Authorities and Advisory Board members of the counties within each region. We helped to organize and participated the northern region meeting which was very successful. As a result of these meetings, plans are afoot to provide regular meetings with counties within the state's four regions to network and provide resources for increasing Advisory Board effectiveness.

During our personal meetings with each of you, (and, Supervisor Madrone, I'm sorry we were unable to meet with you) we discussed the Governor's proposed budget cuts that affect IHSS. In particular, there are three that concern us the most:

**Elimination of the Backup Provider System (BUPS):** this program provides emergency backup care for IHSS recipients who would have to utilize emergency room services or be in grave health danger without care. Eliminating this program would cost the state millions of dollars (an emergency room visit averages at \$3,000).

**Residual Program:** This proposal would, if for some reason a person's Medi-Cal benefits are suspended, also terminate IHSS benefits at the same time. Currently, most counties have a thirty

day period to allow reinstatement of Medi-Cal. This proposal, if approved, would cause untold hardship to IHSS recipients, and untold expense to the state and counties.

Shift of State Spending to Counties: this proposal would determine a statewide average of allowable hours for recipient care and shift the cost of any individual needs that are greater than the average to counties. It's obvious that this would be devastating to all involved: recipients, care providers, program managers and employees, and counties themselves- most of whom are stretched beyond thin at this point.

We were glad to learn that you have included the IHSS and DHSS programs in your advocacy priorities this year. We ask that you speak out in emails and letters to the legislators and budget committees about these proposals and advocate against the changes.

I've included a copy of our letter with talking points for your reference.

We would like to develop a more active relationship with you, our Governing Board. To that end, we invite any or all of you to attend meetings, ask questions and familiarize yourselves more closely with our work. We meet on line and in person on the fourth Monday of each month at 2 pm. Our in-person meetings are held at Silvercrest, 2141 Tydd St., Eureka  
Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted by  
Margaret Lewis, Advisory Board Chairman  
Vivian Deniston, Advisory Board Vice-Chairman  
Board Members:  
Miyiosha Aubrey  
Jack Breazeal  
Andrew Bushcamp  
Corbett Peterson  
Tim Such

March 23, 2026

**Re: IHSS Trailer Bills in the 2026–27 Jan Budget – Oppose**

Dear Governor Newsom, Senator Laird, Assemblymember Gabriel, Senator Menjivar and Assemblymember Jackson:

On behalf of the Humboldt County IHSS Advisory Board, representing 6,180 IHSS recipients and care providers, we are writing to share our opposition to the several proposals impacting In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program in the Governor’s proposed January budget. The IHSS program provides vital services to older adults and individuals with disabilities to remain safe in their own homes rather than institutional care or urgent care, which is more expensive.

While we recognize the challenges posed by federal policy changes, economic uncertainty, and multi-year state deficit projections, we strongly believe that budget decisions must protect the health, stability, and independence of older adults and people with disabilities.

For these reasons, we oppose the following proposals included in the Governor’s proposed budget:

**Elimination of the IHSS Back-Up Provider System – \$3.5 million General Fund**

The administration cites low utilization as a reason to eliminate the IHSS Back-Up Provider System. However, the Back-Up program results in very successful outcomes for people who are in urgent need of a caregiver when their regular provider is unexpectedly unavailable. This results in a cost savings to the state by keeping consumers out of hospitals and urgent care centers.

**Shifting State IHSS Costs to Counties - \$233.6 million General Fund**

Humboldt County IHSS Advisory Board is strongly opposed to the proposal to remove the state’s share of costs for IHSS hours per case growth based on a statewide baseline average. Counties are unable to absorb the additional cost to fund the authorized IHSS hours per case that are greater than the baseline statewide average without negatively impacting other critical social services programs. This would ultimately result in the loss of hours for IHSS consumers that are vitally need.

**Elimination of the IHSS Residual Program – \$86 million General Fund**

This program is a critical safety net that allows recipients to continue receiving services while reestablishing their Medi-Cal eligibility. Consumers may be disenrolled from Medi-Cal due to paperwork errors, missed deadlines, or administrative issues – not because they are ineligible for support. Without the Residual Program, these individuals would face automatic termination from IHSS, putting older adults and people with disabilities at serious risk of losing essential care and jeopardizing their ability to remain safe in their homes.

Ensuring that all Californians can live safely in their homes and communities is the responsibility of the government. We ask that you protect IHSS, support vulnerable populations, and oppose these budget cuts.

Sincerely,

Humboldt County IHSS Advisory Board

Margaret Lewis, Chairman

Vivian Deniston, Vice-Chairman

Miyiosha Aubrey

Andrew Bushcamp

Timothy Such

Jack Brezeal

Corbett Peterson

Kim Rothschild CAPA – [kim@capaihss.org](mailto:kim@capaihss.org) (Kim will send to DOF, LAO, CSAC & CWDA)  
Governor Newsom – [leg.unit@gov.ca.gov](mailto:leg.unit@gov.ca.gov)  
Assembly Budget Committee [AsmBudget@asm.ca.gov](mailto:AsmBudget@asm.ca.gov)  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review [SBUD.Committee@senate.ca.gov](mailto:SBUD.Committee@senate.ca.gov)

Governor Gavin Newsom  
State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator John Laird  
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Caroline Menjivar  
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee 3 on Health and Human Services  
1021 O Street, Suite 6720  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Dr. Corey Jackson  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2 on Human Services  
1021 O Street, Suite 8130  
Sacramento, CA 95814