

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

❖ *What is the San Francisco IHSS Public Authority?*

The IHSS Public Authority (PA) is a nonprofit public agency that was created by a City and County Ordinance in 1995. San Francisco's PA brings together the primary groups affected by IHSS, consumers and independent home care workers, to foster the development of high-quality personal assistance services. Although a legal entity separate from the City and County, the PA was established by a local law (SF Ordinance No. 185-95) consistent with requirements in state law (California Welfare and Institutions Code section 12301.6). These laws require this unique quasigovernmental agency to:

- o Create and operate a registry to provide lists of screened workers to IHSS consumers for potential in-home employment

- o Arrange training and support services for both IHSS workers and consumers

- o Be “employer of record” for IHSS independent providers, allowing worker organization and union representation

- o Provide formal opportunities for consumer and worker leadership in program and policy development

- o Participate in the overall improvement of personal assistance services

❖ *What is the purpose of the Public Authority Governing Body?*

PA policies and programs are overseen by a “governing body” or “board,” just like other nonprofits. Our thirteen members represent users of personal assistance services or IHSS consumers, home care workers, and representatives of city government. By law, a majority of the governing body must “be or have been a user of personal assistance services” – not necessarily IHSS itself. The board hires and provides oversight to the Executive Director and work of the PA in general, which has a staff of about 18 people. The PA board regularly meets in a convenient downtown location six times a year during odd-numbered months, and we encourage



occasional participation on committees and in other important events and conferences. The following are examples of agenda items and activities:

- o Policy issues regarding IHSS and the PA
- o Review PA budget and financial audit
- o Annual performance review of the Executive Director
- o Outreach to the public officials regarding the PA
- o Educational presentations about PA programs and services
- o Overview of PA operations from the Executive Director

Our work includes meetings with and presenting testimony to state and local legislators and policy makers. We are also members of a statewide organization devoted to advocating primarily from the IHSS consumer perspective.

❖ ***Are there any expenses related to board membership?***

Members are paid a \$50 stipend per Governing Body meeting and are reimbursed for other documented expenses.

❖ ***What is In-Home Supportive Services?***

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) is a statewide program administered through each county. It is publicly funded through federal (Medi-Cal), state and local or county appropriations. It provides assistance to low-income people with chronic and disabling conditions who need such assistance to remain safely in their homes and engaged in their communities. IHSS services include chore and house cleaning services as well as personal care, such as assistance with eating, bathing, dressing, and using the toilet. IHSS allows Consumers to live safely and independently at home, where most want to be, rather than be placed in institutions in order to receive care either unnecessarily or prematurely.

