

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (SSAB)**

**Held In Person
North Central Live Well Center
5055 Ruffin Road, 2nd Floor Conference Room, San Diego CA 92123
Phone (619) 338-2932 * * Fax (619) 338-2972**

Public Video Viewing/Comment Option:
<https://sdcounty-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/87679300876>

**SSAB Meeting Minutes
July 08, 2026**

Members Present

Vino Pajanor
Jan Spencley
Andrea Gonzalez
Lori Brown
Greg Anglea
Robin Maxson
Rachel Morineau

Members Absent

Daniela Murphy

Staff Present

Adriana Ramirez, HHSA
Jeannie Jones, HHSA
Brenda Vargas-Ramirez
Alberto Garcia, HHSA
Michelle McGeary, HHSA
Bianca Graciano, HHSA
Ismael Lopez, HHSA
Claudia Gurrola, HHSA
Gabriela Damian, HHSA
Justine Kozo, HHSA
Karina Flores, HHSA
Darlene Beltran, HHSA
Ricardo Hernandez, HHSA
Nina Olivas, HHSA

Guests

Adrian Carstens, 2-1-1 San Diego
Raychel Sager, 2-1-1 San Diego
Jack Dailey, LASSD/ HCA
Virginia Casey, HHSA Staff
Lindsey Wade, Hospital Assoc. of SD & Imperial Counties
Michael Schmidt, HHSA Staff
Heather Summers, HHSA Staff
Stephanie Phann, Hospital Assoc. of SD & Imperial Counties
Jana Jordan, HHSA Staff
Julia Lara, HHSA Staff
Jamie Bean, HHSA Staff
Jennifer Tuteur, HHSA Staff
Michael Worman, HHSA Staff
Jennifer Rolls Reutz, Rady Children's Hospital San Diego

1. Meeting called to order at 9:31 by Chair, Vino Pajanor.
2. The June 10, 2026 meeting minutes were approved, with all Members present voting yes.
3. **Public Comments:**
 - No public comment
4. **Discussion Item:** SSAB Member Sharing, Comments, and Topics of Interest: All Social Services Advisory Board Members. The board members discussed and clarified quorum requirements and the current vacant positions.

5. **Presentation Item:** County Medical Services Update: Shelly Tregembo, Chief, Department of Strategy and Community Engagement, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSa). Ms. Tregembo provided an update on County Medical Services (CMS), noting that about 314,000 individuals will face new work requirements, with roughly 93,500 unable to meet them. She explained that CMS, a County-funded program, covers certain medical care for uninsured low-income adults who are denied Medi-Cal and must repay medical costs. She also highlighted differences between Medi-Cal and CMS and shared feedback gathered from recent CMS listening sessions. Key recommendations included removing lien and U.S. citizenship requirements and expanding age eligibility. CMS covers emergency medical & dental care, it doesn't cover preventive, behavioral care, family planning, transplants or non-emergency dental care. Something being investigated is where people fall out of the process & identify barriers.

Public comment – Lindsay Wade expressed concern that the feedback being conveyed lacked nuance, particularly for SSAB. During the community session, participants were not allowed to speak, which may have resulted in missing important nuances in the summary. She stated that the lien should be removed and raised additional concerns, describing CMS as an antiquated program in need of significant updates. She also questioned whether the County is considering allowing CMS eligibility for undocumented individuals.

6. **Presentation Item:** IHSS Budget Impacts: Julie Lara, Program Specialist II, Aging and Independence Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSa) Ms. Lara provided an overview of IHSS, a statewide program administered by the County to help eligible, low-income and Medi-Cal-qualified Californians remain safely in their homes & receive care. IHSS covers personal care and domestic services, with reassessments every 12 months. As of May 2026, over 50,000 people use the program. Recipients must secure their own caregivers, though the Backup Provider System has helped those without one and is awaiting funding. If a recipient loses Medi-Cal, they may shift into Residual IHSS to allow time to resolve their eligibility.
7. **Information Item:** House Resolution 1 (H.R. 1) Policy Impacts: Claudia Gurrola, Chief, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSa). Ms. Gurrola shared budget highlights, Medi-Cal's planned monthly premiums and dental coverage changes for individuals with unsatisfactory immigration status have both been delayed to July 2027, with premium amounts to be set during the 2027 May Revision. The proposed reduction of the asset limit was rejected. Funding will continue to depend on an individual's citizenship status, with eligibility for either federal or state funding. She also reported that CalWORKs will exclude children's savings account funds from being counted as income or property calculations, and that CalFresh cost-sharing changes will shift the federal share from 50 percent to 25 percent, increasing the state's share to 75 percent and the county's share from 15 percent to 22.5 percent; however, a waiver approved through June 2029 will maintain the county's contribution at 15 percent.

ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m. Next regular meeting will be held on August 12, 2026 at 5055 Ruffin Road, 2nd Floor Conference Room, San Diego, CA 92123.