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In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Advocate
Riverside County IHSS Advisory Committee
Member/Partner
Since 2002

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I am passionate about helping to improve and preserve services for seniors and persons with disabilities. California programs such as In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) have allowed me to live at home independently, work and participate in my community despite substantial physical disability.

As a person with significant physical barriers (I became disabled in my twenties) who is now a senior, I have “lived experience” relative to many different circumstances which help me to advocate for others. This would include learning to live with and manage chronic/catastrophic illness, adaptation to physical disability, crossing educational rehabilitation barriers, finding full-time employment while disabled, and learning to train and collaborate with numerous care providers both live-in and day/shift workers.

Realizing I would always need full time support at home, my care provider Chris Long and I both decided to get involved, and it has been an amazing journey. It began by working with the UDW Care Providers Union to establish union representation for IHSS providers. Since my foundational belief is that all real change happens through collaboration partnership and communication, I also became active with the Riverside IHSS Advisory Committee and developed relationships with people at the Public Authority, Department of Social Services, and the Riverside Board of Supervisors.

Recent Video:

- [Local Recruitment of Care Providers](#)
- [Disability Awareness; 1 Living With a Disability](#)
- [Disability Awareness; 2 Working With Recipients Who Have Physical Disabilities](#)

A few of the projects achieved through the Riverside IHSS Advisory Committee along with our county and union partnerships over the years:

- Back-up Provider Registry
- Active ongoing recruitment for IHSS providers
- Disability Awareness Training for IHSS Public Authority staff and IHSS social workers using live panels (speakers from the community)
- “BUS” system to quickly provide and integrate home care workers for IHSS consumers (recipients) in emergency situations

- Training for *both* IHSS Consumers and Providers on many aspects of utilizing the program such as scheduling, time management, and using the electronic portal for payment processing.
- Speakers and participation in creating yearly Care Provider Recognition Events
- An ongoing commitment to communication with IHSS providers and recipients through print, website development and additional media outreach.
- Ongoing training and recruitment for IHSS Advisory Committee members.
- Commitment to our partnerships with the California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance (CICA), Independent Living Centers (Community Access), and the California Department on Aging.

And with a particular nod to the UDW Care Providers Union

- Achievement of contracts that provide livable wages and overtime for IHSS Care Providers.
- Ongoing work to provide health coverage for IHSS providers.
- Training for consumers and providers on the IHSS Assessment process (hours assigned through the program)
- Substantial and meaningful representation at state and legislative levels to fight off devastating attacks on the IHSS program and lobby for improvements towards sustainability for long term care in California.

Public comment is always welcome at our meetings. Contact me through the Riverside IHSS Advisory Committee – I look forward to hearing from you!