

**Issues & Reports  
(Continued)**

Ms. Wong then noted our lawyer's recommendation to form a *GB Advisory Committee on Labor Relations*, which would meet as needed. Members agreed.

**Motion**

To establish an Advisory Committee on Labor Relations with the following members: Mr. Boyd, Mr. Calderon, Mr. Illig, Ms. Kostanian and Mr. Serina.

**Unanimous approval.**

Mr. Calderon gave a brief *Review of Status of Employee Relations Ordinance (ERO)*. Employers are not required to have ERO's in place and the Authority has never put an ERO in place. In the absence of an ERO, employer-employee relations and worker rights are governed and protected by rules of the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB).

Members of the public who identified themselves both as workers and NUHW representatives stated why they believe having an ERO is important at this time. They stressed that workers should be able to fairly choose who represents them and that not having an ERO, in their opinion, gives the appearance of preference for one union over another.

Rosie Byers had asked for this agenda item and why the Authority shouldn't pass an ERO. Other members came to general agreement that given the current situation between SEIU-UHW and NUHW, creating an ERO at this point would not be perceived as neutral by either union. Ms. Wong emphasized that the Authority had done everything it could to remain neutral in these circumstances and we couldn't control how people would interpret our actions. She said that to construct an ERO at this time could not avoid the Authority being pulled into a "quicksand situation."

Mr. Illig added that the key thing was that having an ERO was not required and he was not interested in supporting one for the Authority. He said that "the fight between the unions" was not our fight and we should not get involved. A couple board members mentioned that all the public input had come from people related to NUHW and to act on an ERO now would look like bias.

The consensus of the Board was that there had been sufficient discussion of this issue and it will not take action to draft an ERO in a contentious labor environment.

Mr. Illig and Ms. Wong updated the Board on *Training Academy Planning* and their February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting (along with Mr. Calderon, Mr. Serina, Ms. Olivares and Ms. Calame) with DAAS Executive Director Anne Hinton. They reported that Ms. Hinton made clear that moving forward with TAPCA was her decision, is definitely "happening" and will be cost-effective. The Authority did get some reassurances that proceeding this fiscal year with our own trainings for Cantonese and Spanish-speaking providers is possible. She was surprised that we had suspended our trainings in anticipation of a late 2009 or early 2010 TAPCA start date for joint trainings.

Even though items, such as the TAPCA budget and a business plan, still need to be developed and shared with the Authority, Consortium staff have hired a Program Manager, who will be lodged at and supervised by the Consortium. An MOU between the Authority and the Consortium is being drafted. GB members were pleased that they were able to convey to Ms. Hinton their concerns with how planning had evolved and Ms. Hinton apologized for not meeting early last year when the Authority was asked to join the planning effort. Members want updates and intend to continue support for Ms. Calame in TAPCA implementation.

Ms. Calame reported that she and Mr. Hoctel had begun discussing a *Spring Communications Plan for IHSS Consumers and Providers*. The plan is for a newsletter to go out to all IP's and consumers (over 40,000 people) that will help clarify the new enrollment process. It will also update them on the mandatory requirements, reductions in services and funding cuts that the State proposed last year for IHSS.

Timing of the newsletter is important, because some of these issues (reduction in/loss of services tied to functional index (FI) scores, cuts for public authority "administrative" costs, etc.) are still undecided. The newsletter will be as brief and to the point as possible, for ease of translation and to best reach people more quickly and effectively.

Ms. Wong suggested that there be a series of bullet points to tell newsletter recipients where they should go/who they should contact/what number to call for more detailed information. She asked Ms. Calame to keep members updated on the newsletter's progress.

The GB brainstormed *Ideas for Board Activities/Priorities & Public Education Plan for the Year*.

Members thought the Board needed to have a more public face. One way to do this would be to attend more meetings with Ms. Calame or to attend them representing the Authority on her behalf. Mr. Illig recommended sending our minutes to Ms. Hinton and the Board of Supervisors to put our issues on their radar. The first time minutes are sent, there should be an accompanying cover letter from Ms. Calame, inviting the recipient to attend our Board meetings.

Ms. Wong reminded everyone that in lieu of the State's actions, the Board's main priority should be to do everything possible to ensure the survival of the IHSS program. Mr. Calderon urged that Board members give a presentation on IHSS and the Public Authority and its services before the DAAS Commission. He thought the 2009 Annual Report would be a useful tool for the presentation and our talk should include a section highlighting the Consumer Peer Mentor Program.

Mr. Illig mentioned that as part of Older Americans Month (May), CASE is doing a Silver Tsunami event in each district to educate the supervisors and their constituents about older adult services, including the role IHSS plays in their community. The Authority (and the GB) could partner with CASE in these events.

**Meeting  
Evaluation**

Mr. Illig commented that the meeting had gone very well, and the GB thanked Mr. Chau for getting a mike for Ms. Wong.

**Announcements/  
Public Comment**

Several NUHW representatives expressed their disappointment with the Board's position on drafting an ERO at this time. They said that this was not about an issue between two unions, but about workers being able to have a fair election process. They noted that they plan to return to ask the Board to reconsider its position.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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Patricia Webb, Secretary

\*Members of the public: Ching Lee, Adrian Maldonado, Richard Marlowe, Juan Antonio Molina, Li Bao Pan, Nick Reynoso, Ravick Ruiz, Sonia Tem and Susanne Yu.