



CWDA

June 30, 2003

Dear Colleague,

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) is pleased to present the attached paper, "In-Home Supportive Services: Past, Present, and Future." The paper was researched, developed and written by the CWDA Adult Services Committee and is the product of a two-year effort involving county social services departments throughout California, multiple human service disciplines, and partner agencies serving elder adults and persons with disabilities.

The purpose of the paper is to collect and summarize the many reports on IHSS of the past two decades, to inventory the changes and pressures in the present IHSS program, and to identify the challenges facing IHSS in the future. Most importantly, we hope the paper provides background for the many discussions going on in Sacramento and around the state regarding community-based long-term care services, by giving some suggested focus to the essential role of IHSS in long-term care planning.

It is important to note that this paper was substantially completed prior to the January 2003 proposal for Realignment of IHSS and Long Term Care Medi-Cal. With the May 2003 withdrawal/delay of the proposed realignment of these two programs, the paper stands as a comprehensive description of the overall factors and challenges in the In-Home Supportive Services program. The funding recommendations contained in the paper stress the need for the state and CWDA to evaluate funding strategies to address service quality, county flexibility, cost control, and maximization of federal revenues.

CWDA and the Adult Services Committee will continue to work with our partners in service to elder adults and persons with disabilities to respond to the evolutionary challenges of the long-term care system. For more information about the paper, or to arrange for a presentation on the paper, please contact Cyndi Girardi of the CWDA office at (916) 443-1749.

We greatly value the involvement and support of our partner agencies and groups in this endeavor. We count on you for your continued dedication to assisting elder individuals and persons with disabilities to live safe, healthy, and productive lives in their communities. Thank you for your efforts and dedication.

Sincerely,

<Original Signed By>

Cecilia Espinola, President  
County Welfare Directors Association