

This afternoon, the Budget Conference Committee began closing out all items (the hearing continues as of this email, though all Health and Human Services issues have been voted on). The Committee took a confrontational pose against the Governor, approving various funding increases beyond what he had put forth in the May Revision. Among them (with relevance to our system) were a partial roll-back of AB 97 Medi-Cal provider payment reductions (including dental anesthesia rates), and to restore adult dental benefits under Medi-Cal.

The outcomes for developmental services are provided below in bullet points. As you will immediately note, there are many key details not yet available, as they will be contained in to-be-finalized trailer bill language (TBL). Additionally, both an official outcomes document and the archived video of the hearing will be available likely tomorrow morning. When the TBL is available, salient details will be shared. Descriptions provided below will be confirmed against the outcomes document and a review of the hearing recording to ensure accuracy. Any errata, or details not included here, will be provided promptly via update to this email.

Developmental Services Outcomes

Rate Increase Proposal

- Beginning July 1, 2015:
 - 5% increase for Supported Living, Supported Employment, and Respite.
 - 2.5% increase for transportation.
 - Funding for 21 dental coordinators and 21 forensic specialists (one per regional center)
 - 5% increase for Client's Rights Advocates (Disability Rights California)
- Beginning January 1st, 2016:
 - 2.5% increase across-the-board for services whose funds were not previously increased
 - 2.5% increase to the core staffing formula
- Trailer bill language requiring the Department to annually report on progress related to rate reform.
- Trailer bill language expressing legislative intent to calculate savings from the closure of developmental centers and reinvest it in the community. Note that legislative intent does not guarantee outcomes.

Comment: Keely Bosler, representing Gov. Brown, noted that for this funding increase, like with all other major increases, there remains concern about the long-term ability of the state to afford such funding levels.

Porterville Secured Treatment Program Expansion

- Funding increase to expand from 170 to 211 beds, as originally proposed by the Governor.
- Transition beds remain at 60.

Delayed Egress/Secured Perimeter Facilities

- Trailer bill language to provide approximately 50 beds for individuals found incompetent to stand trial.

Self-Determination Program

- Individuals leaving developmental centers will be eligible to participate.
- The Department of Finance may increase the participant cap above 2,500.

Institutions for Mental Disease (IMDs)

- Require IMDs to notify regional centers if they are housing someone who may be a client.
- Various information will be collected and reported.

Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Overtime

- Require DDS to consult with stakeholders to determine the regulation's impact on clients and providers.

Disparities in Service

- Regional centers will be required to provide a translated copy of an IPP for "threshold" languages within 45 days if requested.
- Regional centers will be required to report to DDS if a translation has been delayed beyond 60 days for non-threshold languages.
- Ongoing measurement of regional center progress in reducing disparities as well as performance contract measures to reduce disparities.
- DDS will be required to form a stakeholder group for consultation on the matter of reducing disparities.

All the best,

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