

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1758

Introduced by Assembly Member Ammiano

February 8, 2010

An act to amend Sections 18250, 18251, 18253, 18253.5, 18254, 18255, and 18256.5 of, to amend the heading of Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 18250) of Part 6 of Division 9 of, to add Section 18258 to, and to repeal and add Section 18256 of, the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1758, as introduced, Ammiano. County wraparound services program.

Under existing law, the State Department of Social Services administers a pilot project that authorizes a county to develop and implement a plan for providing wraparound services designed to enable children who would otherwise be placed in a group home setting to remain in the least restrictive, most family-like setting possible. The pilot project also imposes specified evaluation and reporting requirements for participating counties, and training requirements for staff in participating counties.

This bill would remove the designation of this program as a pilot project and make conforming changes.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which eligible low-income persons are provided with health care services.

Existing law provides for the Adoption Assistance Program, administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under

which adoption assistance payments are provided to eligible adoptive parents.

This bill would also provide that children otherwise categorically eligible for Medi-Cal benefits without a share of cost due to receipt of benefits under the AFDC-FC program or the Adoption Assistance Program shall remain eligible for Medi-Cal benefits during participation in the wraparound services program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The heading of Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 18250) of Part 6 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

CHAPTER 4. COUNTY ~~WRAP-AROUND~~
WRAPAROUND SERVICES ~~PILOT-PROJECT~~ PROGRAM

SEC. 2. Section 18250 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

18250. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that all counties be authorized to provide children with service alternatives to group home care through the development of expanded family-based services programs. These programs shall include individualized or ~~“wrap-around”~~ “wraparound” services, where services are wrapped around a child living with his or her birth parent, relative, *nonrelative extended family member as defined in Section 362.7*, adoptive parent, licensed or certified foster parent, or guardian. The ~~wrap-around~~ wraparound services developed under this section shall build on the strengths of each eligible child and family and be tailored to address their unique and changing needs.

(b) It is further the intent of the Legislature that the ~~pilot project~~ county wraparound services program include the following elements:

(1) Making available to the county the state share of nonfederal reimbursement for group home placement, minus the state share, if any, of any concurrent out-of-home placement costs, for children eligible under this chapter, for the purpose of allowing the county to develop family-based service alternatives.

(2) Enabling the county to access all possible sources of federal funds for the purpose of developing family-based service alternatives.

(3) Encouraging collaboration among persons and entities including, but not limited to, parents, county welfare departments, county mental health departments, county probation departments, county health departments, special education local planning agencies, school districts, and private service providers for the purpose of planning and providing individualized services for children and their birth or substitute families.

(4) Ensuring local community participation in the development and implementation of ~~wrap-around~~ *wraparound* services by county placing agencies and service providers.

(5) Preserving and using the service resources and expertise of nonprofit providers to develop family-based and community-based service alternatives.

SEC. 3. Section 18251 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

18251. As used in this chapter:

(a) “County” means each county participating in an individualized or ~~“wrap-around” pilot project~~ *wraparound services program*.

(b) “County placing agency” means a county welfare or probation department, or a county mental health department with respect to those children placed pursuant to Section 7572.5 of the Government Code.

(c) “Eligible child” means a child who is any of the following:

(1) A child who has been adjudicated as either a dependent or ward of the juvenile court pursuant to Section 300, 601, or 602 and who would be placed in a group home licensed by the department at a rate classification level of 10 or higher.

(2) A child who would be voluntarily placed in out-of-home care pursuant to Section 7572.5 of the Government Code.

(3) A child who is currently, or who would be, placed in a group home licensed by the department at a rate classification level of 10 or higher.

(d) ~~“Wrap-around”~~ — “*Wraparound* services” means community-based intervention services that emphasize the strengths of the child and family and includes the delivery of coordinated,

1 highly individualized unconditional services to address needs and
2 achieve positive outcomes in their lives.

3 (e) “Service allocation slot” means a specified amount of funds
4 available to the county to pay for an individualized intensive
5 wraparound services package for an eligible child. A service
6 allocation slot may be used for more than one child on a successive
7 basis.

8 SEC. 4. Section 18253 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
9 amended to read:

10 18253. Each county shall ensure that an evaluation of the ~~pilot~~
11 ~~project wraparound services program~~ is conducted to determine
12 the cost and treatment effectiveness of outcomes such as family
13 functioning and social performance, preventing placement in more
14 restrictive environments, improving emotional and behavioral
15 adjustments, school attendance, and ~~academic performance stability~~
16 *in the least restrictive school placement* for eligible children.
17 Systems of care outcomes shall be included to the extent they are
18 applicable to the target population.

19 SEC. 5. Section 18253.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
20 is amended to read:

21 18253.5. Each county shall ensure that staff participating in
22 the ~~pilot projects~~ *wraparound services program* have completed
23 training provided or approved by the department, on providing
24 individualized ~~wrap-around~~ *wraparound* services.

25 SEC. 6. Section 18254 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
26 amended to read:

27 18254. (a) Reimbursement rates for wraparound services,
28 under ~~this pilot project~~ *the wraparound services program*, shall
29 be based on the following factors:

30 (1) The average cost of rate classification 10 to 11 in each
31 county, minus the cost of any concurrent out-of-home placement,
32 for children who are or would be placed in a rate level 10 or 11
33 group home.

34 (2) The average cost of rate classification 12 to 14 in each
35 county, minus the cost of any concurrent out-of-home placement,
36 for children who are or would be placed in a rate level 12 to 14
37 group home.

38 (b) The annual maximum limit on funding available for the ~~pilot~~
39 ~~project wraparound services program~~ authorized by this chapter
40 shall be based on the average cost, determined pursuant to

1 subdivision (a), for the number of service allocation slots assigned
2 to each county.

3 (c) The department shall reimburse each county, for the purpose
4 of providing intensive wraparound services, up to 100 percent of
5 the state share of nonfederal funds, to be matched by each county's
6 share of cost as established by law, and to the extent permitted by
7 federal law, up to 100 percent of the federal funds allocated for
8 group home placements of eligible children, at the rate authorized
9 pursuant to subdivision (a).

10 (d) State and, to the extent permitted by federal law, federal
11 foster care funds shall remain with the administrative authority of
12 the county welfare department, which may enter into an interagency
13 agreement to transfer those funds, and shall be used to provide
14 intensive wraparound services.

15 (e) General Fund costs for the provision of benefits to eligible
16 children ~~pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 18254~~, at rates
17 authorized by subdivision (a), through the ~~pilot project wraparound~~
18 *services program* authorized by this chapter, shall not exceed the
19 costs which would otherwise have been incurred had the eligible
20 children been placed in a group home.

21 SEC. 7. Section 18255 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
22 amended to read:

23 18255. ~~This pilot project may be extended to any~~ Any county
24 that applies to, and is granted approval, by the department *may*
25 *implement a wraparound services program*. The number of service
26 allocation slots assigned to each county shall be determined by
27 each county and approved by the department.

28 SEC. 8. Section 18256 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
29 repealed.

30 ~~18256. Each county shall evaluate its pilot project, prepare~~
31 ~~interim and final evaluations, and submit them to the appropriate~~
32 ~~committees of the Legislature and to the department. The interim~~
33 ~~report shall be submitted not later than six months following the~~
34 ~~start of the third year of the pilot project. The final report shall be~~
35 ~~submitted not later than six months following the end of the~~
36 ~~five-year pilot project. These reports shall assess the effectiveness~~
37 ~~of the pilot project authorized by this chapter. The reports shall~~
38 ~~include, but need not be limited to, all of the following:~~

~~(a) The effectiveness of the project in reducing the level of out-of-home services required, and in reducing the average length of stay in out-of-home care.~~

~~(b) A comparison of the cost of placement and services for children in the pilot project with the average cost of out-of-home placement for the same number of children.~~

~~(c) The effectiveness of the pilot project in assisting children and families in attaining their service goals.~~

SEC. 9. Section 18256 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

18256. The department shall work with the County Welfare Directors Association of California to identify periodic data elements to be collected in order to track the impact of the counties' wraparound services programs on applicable California Child and Family Services Review System outcome indicators, such as safety, permanency, and the well-being of the child.

SEC. 10. Section 18256.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

~~18256.5. At the end of a county's pilot project, in-~~ *In order to prevent disruption to the a child, each child remaining in the pilot project participating in a wraparound services program, any county that terminates its wraparound services program shall continue to receive provide to that participating child all planned services specified in the child's individualized services plan until his or her case is closed.*

SEC. 11. Section 18258 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

18258. A child who is otherwise categorically eligible for Medi-Cal benefits without a share of cost due to receipt of benefits under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) program or the Adoption Assistance Program shall remain eligible for Medi-Cal benefits during participation in the wraparound services program, provided that the child remains an eligible child as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 18251 and is considered temporarily absent from a foster care placement for which the child remains eligible for AFDC-FC benefits pursuant to Section 18254. The placement of a child who is participating in the wraparound services program pursuant to this chapter in his or her parental home shall not represent a change in the child's foster care status for purposes of Medi-Cal eligibility, provided

1 that the child remains an eligible child as defined in subdivision
2 (c) of Section 18251 and is considered temporarily absent from a
3 foster care placement for which the child remains eligible for
4 AFDC-FC benefits pursuant to Section 18254. Medi-Cal eligibility
5 shall be redetermined, consistent with applicable state law, if the
6 child is returned to the parental home and AFDC-FC or Adoption
7 Assistance Program benefits terminated.

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