

Senate Bill No. 764

Passed the Senate August 23, 2012

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly August 22, 2012

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2012, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to add Section 4686.21 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to developmental services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 764, Steinberg. Developmental services: telehealth systems program.

Under existing law, the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, the State Department of Developmental Services is authorized to contract with regional centers to provide supports and services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

This bill would require each regional center individual program planning team to consider the use of telehealth, as defined, whenever applicable, for the purpose of improving access to intervention and therapeutic services for consumers and family members and for purposes of facilitating better and cost-effective services, as provided. The bill would require the department to implement appropriate vendorization subcodes for telehealth services and programs.

This bill would require the department, by December 1, 2017, to provide to the fiscal and appropriate policy committees of the Legislature specified information that is provided voluntarily by regional centers relating to the provision of telehealth services.

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

SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to do all of the following:

(a) Improve access to treatments and intervention services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) or other developmental disabilities and their families in underserved populations.

(b) Provide more cost-effective treatments and intervention services for individuals with ASDs or other developmental disabilities and their families.

(c) Maximize the effectiveness of the interpersonal and face-to-face interactions that are utilized for the treatment of individuals with ASDs or other developmental disabilities.

(d) Continue maintenance and support of the existing service workforce for individuals with ASDs or other developmental disabilities.

SEC. 2. Section 4686.21 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

4686.21. (a) (1) To improve access to intervention and therapeutic services for consumers and family members, including those from underserved communities, and for purposes of facilitating better and cost-effective services, each individual program planning team shall consider the use of telehealth, whenever applicable.

(2) Telehealth shall be considered for parent trainings, including, but not limited to, trainings as specified in clause (i) of subparagraph (B) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 4685.

(3) The State Department of Developmental Services shall implement appropriate vendorization subcodes for telehealth services and programs.

(4) Providers of telehealth services shall maintain the privacy and security of all confidential consumer information.

(5) The provision of a service through the use of telehealth shall be voluntary and may be discontinued at the request of the consumer or, as appropriate, the consumer's parent, legal guardian, or conservator. If, at any time, a consumer or, as appropriate, the consumer's parent, legal guardian, or conservator requests to discontinue the provision of a service through the use of telehealth, the regional center shall convene an individual program plan review pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 4646.5 to determine alternative, appropriate means for providing the service.

(b) By December 1, 2017, the department shall forward to the fiscal and appropriate policy committees of the Legislature any information that was provided voluntarily by the regional centers to the department that was deemed relevant by the regional centers to assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of providing telehealth services to regional center consumers through the individual program plan (IPP) process.

(c) For purposes of this section, “telehealth” has the same meaning as set forth in paragraph (6) of subdivision (a) of Section 2290.5 of the Business and Professions Code.

Approved _____, 2012

Governor