

AMENDED IN SENATE SEPTEMBER 5, 2013

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 27, 2013

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 17, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 7, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 21, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1231

Introduced by Assembly Member V. Manuel Pérez

February 22, 2013

An act to add and repeal Section 4686.21 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to regional center services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1231, as amended, V. Manuel Pérez. Regional centers: telehealth.

The Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act authorizes the State Department of Developmental Services to contract with regional centers to provide services and support to individuals with developmental disabilities, including autism.

This bill would, until January 1, 2019, require the department to inform all regional centers that any appropriate health service and dentistry may be provided through the use of telehealth, as defined, to consumers of regional center services. The bill would require the department to provide technical assistance to regional centers on the use of telehealth and to request those centers to include a consideration of telehealth in individual program plans and individualized family

~~services plans, as specified, for consumers and to consider the use of telehealth services for inclusion in training programs for parents of consumers.~~

The bill would require that the provision of a service through the use of telehealth be voluntary and immediately discontinued at the request of the consumer or his or her parent, legal guardian, or conservator, as appropriate. ~~The bill would require the department, on or before December 1, 2017, to forward to the fiscal and appropriate policy committees of the Legislature information provided by the regional centers to assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of providing telehealth services to regional center consumers, as specified.~~

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to do all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Improve access to treatments and intervention services,
- 4 including dental health care services, for consumers of regional
- 5 center services and their families in underserved populations.
- 6 (b) Provide more cost-effective treatments and intervention
- 7 services for consumers of regional center services and their
- 8 families.
- 9 (c) Maximize the effectiveness of the interpersonal and
- 10 face-to-face interactions that are utilized for the treatment of
- 11 consumers of regional center services.
- 12 (d) Continue maintenance and support of the existing service
- 13 workforce for consumers of regional center services.
- 14 (e) Utilize telehealth to improve services for consumers of
- 15 regional center services.
- 16 SEC. 2. Section 4686.21 is added to the Welfare and
- 17 Institutions Code, to read:
- 18 4686.21. (a) The department shall do all of the following:
- 19 (1) Inform all regional centers that any appropriate health *care*
- 20 service may be provided through the use of telehealth to consumers
- 21 of regional center services.
- 22 (2) Inform all regional centers that dentistry may be provided
- 23 through the use of telehealth to consumers.

1 ~~(3) Request regional centers to include a consideration of~~
2 ~~telehealth in each individual program plan (IPP) and individualized~~
3 ~~family service plan (IFSP) for consumers.~~

4 ~~(4)~~

5 (3) Request regional centers to consider the use of telehealth
6 services for inclusion in training programs for parents of
7 consumers, including, but not limited to, group training programs
8 as described in clause (i) of subparagraph (B) of paragraph (3) of
9 subdivision (c) of Section 4685.

10 ~~(5)~~

11 (4) Provide, using existing resources, and in partnership with
12 other organizations, resources, and stakeholders, technical
13 assistance to regional centers regarding the use of telehealth to
14 meet the health and dental care needs of consumers.

15 (b) The department may implement appropriate vendorization
16 subcodes for services provided through telehealth.

17 (c) The provision of a service through the use of telehealth shall
18 be voluntary and shall be immediately discontinued at the request
19 of the consumer or, as appropriate, the consumer's parent, legal
20 guardian, or conservator. Any consumer who receives services
21 through the use of telehealth pursuant to this section shall have an
22 automatic right to immediately return to his or her preexisting
23 services, as defined by the consumer's ~~IPP~~, *individual program*
24 *plan*, that were in place prior to the implementation of the telehealth
25 service.

26 ~~(d) On or before December 1, 2017, the department shall forward~~
27 ~~to the fiscal and appropriate policy committees of the Legislature~~
28 ~~any information provided by the regional centers to the department~~
29 ~~to assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of providing~~
30 ~~telehealth services to consumers through the IPP and IFSP~~
31 ~~processes.~~

32 ~~(e)~~

33 (d) A provider of telehealth services shall be responsible for all
34 expenses and costs related to the equipment, transmission, storage,
35 infrastructure, and other expenses related to telehealth.

36 ~~(f)~~

37 (e) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall
38 apply:

39 (1) "Department" means the State Department of Developmental
40 Services.

1 (2) “Telehealth” has the same meaning as set forth in Section
2 2290.5 of the Business and Professions Code.
3 ~~(g)~~
4 (f) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2019,
5 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that
6 is enacted before January 1, 2019, deletes or extends that date.

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