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SENATE BILL

No. 163

Introduced by Senator Solis

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Aroner)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ashburn, Cunneen,
Gallegos, Goldsmith, Ortiz, and Wright)

January 16, 1997

An act to amend Sections 18250, 18251, 18252, 18253, 18254, 18255, 18256, and 18257 of, to amend the heading of Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 18250) of Part 6 of Division 9 of, and to add Sections 18253.5 and 18256.5 to, the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 163, as amended, Solis. Children: wrap-around services.

Existing law creates the Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care program, under which a combination of federal, state, and county funds are used to provide reimbursement to families and facilities providing foster care to eligible children.

Existing law also requires each county to provide child welfare services.

Existing law also provides, until July 1, 2001, for the establishment in Santa Clara County, at the county’s option, of a pilot project to continue the provision of intensive wrap-around services, as defined, to eligible children in foster care or at imminent risk of this placement. These provisions would be repealed on January 1, 2002.

This bill would, instead, permit each county to participate in this pilot project, if approval for the county’s participation is given by the State Department of Social Services, and would make various other changes in these pilot project provisions.

The bill would also extend the operative date of these provisions until October 1, 2003, and the date of their repeal until April 1, 2004.

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

4
5 CHAPTER 4. COUNTY WRAP-AROUND SERVICES PILOT
6 PROJECT
7

8 SEC. 1.5. Section 18250 of the Welfare and Institutions
9 Code is amended to read:

10 18250. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that all
11 counties be authorized to provide children with service
12 alternatives to group home care through the
13 development of expanded family-based services
14 programs. These programs shall include individualized or
15 “wrap-around” services, where services are wrapped
16 around a child living with his or her birth parent, relative,
17 adoptive parent, licensed or certified foster parent, or
18 guardian. The wrap-around services developed under
19 this section shall build on the strengths of each eligible



1 child and family and be tailored to address their unique
2 and changing needs.

3 (b) It is further the intent of the Legislature that the
4 pilot project include the following elements:

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

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

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

22 (4) Ensuring local community participation in the
23 development and implementation of wrap-around
24 services by county placing agencies and service
25 providers.

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

29 SEC. 2. Section 18251 of the Welfare and Institutions
30 Code is amended to read:

31 18251. As used in this chapter:

32 (a) “County” means each county participating in an
33 individualized or “wrap-around” pilot project.

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

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



1 (1) A child who has been adjudicated as either a
2 dependent or ward of the juvenile court pursuant to
3 Section 300, 601, or 602 and who would be placed in a
4 group home licensed by the department at a rate
5 classification level of 12 or higher.

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

9 (3) A child who is currently, or who would be, placed
10 in a group home licensed by the department at a rate
11 classification level of 12 or higher.

12 (d) “Wrap-around services” means community-based
13 intervention services that emphasize the strengths of the
14 child and family and includes the delivery of coordinated,
15 highly individualized unconditional services to address
16 needs and achieve positive outcomes in their lives.

17 (e) “Service allocation slot” means a specified amount
18 of funds available to the county to pay for an
19 individualized intensive wrap-around services package
20 for an eligible child. A service allocation slot may be used
21 for more than one child on a successive basis.

22 SEC. 3. Section 18252 of the Welfare and Institutions
23 Code is amended to read:

24 18252. Each county shall, at the county’s option,
25 develop a county plan for intensive wrap-around services
26 and monitor the provision of those services in accordance
27 with the plan. This plan shall be submitted to the
28 department for informational purposes. *Where a county*
29 *operates both systems of care under the Children’s*
30 *Mental Health Services Act, Part 4 (commencing with*
31 *Section 5850) of Division 5, and wrap-around services,*
32 *these plans shall be coordinated.* Each county’s plan shall
33 include all the following elements:

34 (a) A process and protocol for reviewing the eligibility
35 of children and families for service and for monitoring
36 accessibility and availability of service to the targeted
37 population. Children shall be determined as eligible for
38 wrap-around services pursuant to subdivision (c) of
39 Section 18251, except that:



1 (1) Once a child is determined to be eligible for
2 wrap-around services under this chapter, he or she shall
3 remain eligible for the time period specified in his or her
4 individualized services plan.

5 (2) A child and family participating in a family
6 maintenance services program as described in Section
7 16506 and the wrap-around services program, shall not be
8 subject to the time limitations specified in Section 16506.

9 (b) A process to accept, modify, or deny proposed
10 individualized service plans for eligible children and
11 families.

12 (c) A process for parent support, mentoring, and
13 advocacy that ensures parent understanding of, and
14 participation in, wrap-around services programs.

15 (d) A planning and review process to support and
16 facilitate the following principles in delivering intensive
17 wrap-around services to eligible children and families:

18 (1) Focusing on an individual child and family through
19 the creation of service plans designed specifically to
20 address the unique needs and strengths of each child and
21 his or her family.

22 (2) Providing services geared toward enabling
23 children to remain in the least restrictive, most
24 family-like setting possible.

25 (3) Developing a close collaborative relationship with
26 each child's family in the planning and provision of
27 wrap-around services.

28 (4) Conducting a thorough, strengths-based
29 assessment of each child and family that will form the
30 basis for the development of the individualized
31 intervention plan.

32 (5) Designing and delivering services that incorporate
33 the religious customs, and regional, racial, and ethnic
34 values and beliefs of the children and families served.

35 (6) Measuring consumer satisfaction to assess
36 outcomes.

37 (e) *Written interagency agreements or*
38 *memorandums of understanding between the county*
39 *departments of mental health, social services, and*
40 *probation that specify jointly provided or integrated*



1 *services, staff tasks and responsibilities, facility and supply*
2 *commitments, budget considerations, and linkage and*
3 *referral services.*

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

6 18253. Each county shall ensure that an evaluation of
7 the pilot project is conducted to determine the cost and
8 treatment effectiveness of outcomes such as family
9 functioning and social performance, preventing
10 placement in more restrictive environments, improving
11 emotional and behavioral adjustments, school
12 attendance, and academic performance for eligible
13 children. *Systems of care outcomes shall be included to*
14 *the extent they are applicable to the target population.*

15 SEC. 5. Section 18253.5 is added to the Welfare and
16 Institutions Code, to read:

17 18253.5. Each county shall ensure that staff
18 participating in the pilot projects have completed
19 training provided or approved by the department, on
20 providing individualized wrap-around services.

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

23 18254. (a) Reimbursement rates for intensive
24 wrap-around services, under this pilot project, shall be
25 based on the average cost of rate classification levels 12 to
26 14, inclusive, in each county, minus the cost, if any, of
27 concurrent out-of-home placement of those children.

28 (b) The annual maximum limit on funding available
29 for the pilot project authorized by this chapter shall be
30 based on the average cost, determined pursuant to
31 subdivision (a), for the number of service allocation slots
32 assigned to each county.

33 (c) The department shall reimburse each county, for
34 the purpose of providing intensive wrap-around services,
35 up to 100 percent of the state share of nonfederal funds,
36 to be matched by each county's share of cost as
37 established by law, and to the extent permitted by federal
38 law, up to 100 percent of the federal funds allocated for
39 group home placements of eligible children, at the rate
40 authorized pursuant to subdivision (a).



1 (d) State and, to the extent permitted by federal law,
2 federal foster care funds shall remain with the
3 administrative authority of the county welfare
4 department, which may enter into an interagency
5 agreement to transfer those funds, and shall be used to
6 provide intensive wrap-around services.

7 (e) General Fund costs for the provision of benefits to
8 eligible children pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section
9 18251 at rates authorized by subdivision (a) through the
10 pilot project authorized by this chapter shall not exceed
11 the costs which would otherwise have been incurred had
12 the eligible children been placed in a group home.

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

15 18255. This pilot project may be extended to any
16 county that applies to, and is granted approval, by the
17 department. The number of service allocation slots
18 assigned to each county shall be determined by each
19 county and approved by the department.

20 SEC. 8. Section 18256 of the Welfare and Institutions
21 Code is amended to read:

22 18256. Each county shall evaluate its pilot project,
23 prepare interim and final evaluations, and submit them
24 to the appropriate committees of the Legislature and to
25 the department. The interim report shall be submitted
26 not later than six months following the start of the third
27 year of the pilot project. The final report shall be
28 submitted not later than six months following the end of
29 the five-year pilot project. These reports shall assess the
30 effectiveness of the pilot project authorized by this
31 chapter. The reports shall include, but need not be
32 limited to, all of the following:

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

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

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



1 SEC. 9. Section 18256.5 is added to the Welfare and
2 Institutions Code, to read:

3 18256.5. At the end of a county's pilot project, in order
4 to prevent disruption to the child, each child remaining
5 in the pilot project shall continue to receive all planned
6 services specified in the child's individualized services
7 plan until his or her case is closed.

8 SEC. 10. Section 18257 of the Welfare and Institutions
9 Code is amended to read:

10 18257. This chapter shall become inoperative on
11 October 1, 2003, and, as of April 1, 2004, is repealed, unless
12 a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or
13 before April 1, 2004, deletes or extends the dates on which
14 it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

