

SB 1445 (Evans)

Regional Centers: Telehealth Programs & Services

PURPOSE

SB 1445 intent is to promote telehealth services and support for the developmentally disabled who receives services through California's regional centers.

BACKGROUND

Under existing law, the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, the State Department of Developmental Services contracts with regional centers to provide services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities. These services and supports are contained in individual program plans (IPP) or individualized family service plan (IFSP), developed in accordance with prescribed requirements.

California has been a national leader in the use of innovative technology and in 1996 passed one of the first telemedicine laws in the country. Telehealth is now used extensively in many medical settings and has been demonstrated to reduce costs, improve the quality of services and to increase access for underserved communities. Furthermore, telehealth offers individuals with developmental disabilities the opportunity to interface with professionals in a preferred setting; reduces or eliminates challenges related to transportation issues; and may improve communications between the consumer and their providers.

Although Section 4685(c)(3)(A) of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) includes language that implies the potential use of telehealth, some Regional Centers (RC) currently are reluctant to integrate telehealth into their treatment models. SB 1445 addresses this ambiguity and provides clarification to existing services and supports that may be provided by RCs under the provisions of the Lanterman Act.

THIS BILL

SB 1445 amends WIC section 4512 (b) to include telehealth services and support as a type of service and support that may be considered in the individual program plans or the individualized family service plans.

This bill does not alter the process by which services and supports are provided by the regional centers to individuals with developmental disabilities. All provisions and stipulations of this bill must be consistent with and subject to all of the requirements of the existing IPP and IFSP process.

SUPPORT

Pending

OPPOSITION

None received

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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