

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 320, MS 3-9
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TTY (916) 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)
(916) 654-1958



September 13, 2018

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: 2018 STATE CAPITOL 87TH ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

For more than 21 years, ornaments made by persons with developmental disabilities have adorned the State Capitol Tree. In the past few years, we have had a tremendous response from regional centers' community art programs, which have delivered several hundred ornaments to be hung on the tree. The Department of Developmental Services, (DDS) has been asked once again to participate in the official State Capitol Tree Lighting Ceremony. We are sending out requests for ornaments to all regional centers, developmental centers, and community art programs.

The tree lighting ceremony will take place the first week of December. This year, as in previous years, a child with a developmental disability will participate in the televised ceremony. The child will place one of the ornaments onto the tree during the ceremony with Governor Jerry Brown and First Lady Anne Gust Brown.

To be included on the tree, all ornaments must be received at DDS headquarters by Friday, November 9. Enclosed are suggestions for the ornaments and a shipping form. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Lungren, Assistant Director of Communications, at (916) 654-1820, (916) 654-1884 or nancy.lungren@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

BRIAN WINFIELD
Deputy Director
Community Services Division

Enclosures

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Chief Counselors
Association of Regional Center Agencies
Nancy Bargmann, Director, DDS
Nancy Lungren, Assistant Director, DDS

“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”

Suggested Guidelines for Ornaments

Ornaments not received by November 9, 2018, have no guarantee of being placed on the tree.

One ornament is chosen to be placed on the tree during the televised ceremony.

Dimensions: Ornaments should be large: 5 to 10 inches in diameter by 5 to 8 inches in height. The tree is usually over 40 feet tall, and the public is not allowed within ten feet of the tree. (Larger ornaments are easier to see from this distance).

Colors: Bright colors and reflective material are more visible. The tree is very large, and 3,000 ornaments and 10,000 lights barely fill it. If you would like to create ornaments in specific color schemes, feel free to do so. Note that the tree lighting ceremony is at night and ornaments are often 40 feet above the ground.

Themes: If you have a group of artists working together, themes work really well. In the past, ornaments submitted have included: patriotic themes, support our troops, faux candles and animal themes. **If photographs of individuals served by either the developmental centers or regional centers are included on the ornaments, please be sure to provide a signed release authorizing DDS to use the photos at:**
<https://www.dds.ca.gov/Forms/docs/DS5651.pdf>.

Materials: Plastic or laminated paper and other waterproof materials work well. (Non-laminated paper will be destroyed by the weather). Ornaments should come with either string or wire loops for hanging. Reflective ornaments are especially effective outside as there is a lot of natural lighting. Durable ceramics are acceptable, but **please do not use any glass.**

Quantity: The tree is very large and has room for many ornaments. We are hoping to contribute at least 800 ornaments to the tree this year from community and developmental center art programs.

Packaging: If the ornaments are fragile, be sure to pack appropriately for shipping. Carefully package the ornament hangers as well so that they do not become tangled during shipment.

Shipping Form: Please take a moment to fill out the enclosed shipping form and include it with your shipment of ornaments. Email the number of parcels shipped and tracking number(s) to nancy.lungren@dds.ca.gov once the parcel has been shipped.

Ship to: Department of Developmental Services
DEVELOPMENTAL CENTERS DIVISION
1600 9th Street, Room 340, MS 3-17
Sacramento, CA 95814
ATTN: Terry Gonzales/TREE ORNAMENTS

2018 State Capitol Tree Lighting Ceremony Ornament Shipping Form

(THIS FORM MUST BE INCLUDED IN PACKAGE WITH ORNAMENTS)

NAME OF CENTER/PROGRAM:

CONTACT PERSON/TITLE:

STREET MAILING ADDRESS:

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER:

CONTACT EMAIL:

**DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE TREE MAY BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE
DDS WEBSITE at <http://www.dds.ca.gov/Newsroom/TreeLighting.cfm>**

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE ORNAMENTS SHIPPED:

TOTAL NUMBER OF ORNAMENTS SHIPPED: _____

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 320, MS 3-9
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TTY (916) 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)
(916) 654-1958



September 13, 2018

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONS FOR REQUESTING HEALTH AND SAFETY WAIVER
EXEMPTIONS AS A RESULT OF LOCAL MINIMUM WAGE

This correspondence provides guidance for the submission of Health and Safety (H&S) Waiver Exemption requests due to a local minimum wage (LMW) ordinance. This letter supersedes the January 6, 2017, correspondence sent to regional center Executive Directors, which provided instructions for submitting H&S requests to the Department of Developmental Services (Department). Welfare & Institutions (W&I) Code sections 4681.6, 4648.4(b), 4684.55, 4689.8, 4691.6 and 4691.9 authorize the Department to approve exemptions to rate freezes for the purpose of mitigating risks to consumer health and safety.

Budget Trailer Bill, Assembly Bill 107 (Chapter 18, Statutes of 2017), required the Department to convene a stakeholder workgroup to consider simplified processes for providers seeking H&S rate adjustments. The Department conducted stakeholder meetings in Northern and Southern California that consisted of representatives, as specified in the Budget Trailer Bill. These stakeholder meetings provided the Department with valuable input and recommendations for improving and streamlining the H&S waiver exemption process, including the development of standardized waiver request templates for use by regional centers and service providers.

In response to the recommendation for a standardized waiver request template, the Department will be utilizing a new template format. Instructions for the template are included as Enclosure 1. The Template is Enclosure 2. Understanding that this is a new tool and adjustments may be needed, the Department encourages regional centers and vendors to provide input and recommendations for improvement, within 90 days from the date on this letter.

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide a detailed description of the information the Department must receive to consider an exemption request in the timeliest manner possible. The following documentation must be submitted to the Department when requesting an exemption due to a LMW ordinance:

- Completed LMW H&S Waiver Request Template;
- A copy of the vendor's original request to the regional center;

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- A copy of the LMW ordinance applicable to the request; and,
- A complete and accurate written request signed by the regional center Executive Director that justifies the need for a rate increase to protect the consumer(s) health or safety. The regional center must thoroughly review financial information provided by a vendor, to support the request, prior to submitting to the Department.

The following should also be noted when preparing exemption requests:

- Requests must be directly linked to the health and safety of the consumers receiving services, and the Department cannot approve requests that fail to establish this basis.
- Regional centers must thoroughly examine each consumer's needs, prior to submitting a request, to ensure that risks to the consumer's health and safety exist and cannot be mitigated in any other way.
- Only payroll and benefits costs that increase due to the LMW ordinance can be included in the requested rate.
- Supported Living Services (SLS) providers (service code 896) with a separately vendored administrative service (service code 894 - SLS Vendor Administration) cannot include administrative costs within their rates for direct care services if this would result in a duplication of administrative costs.
- While the Department recognizes the challenges the provider may be facing, the H&S process is not a mechanism for making a provider's business viable.
- The Department does not require a separate request letter for each consumer when the same vendor serves, and the request applies to, multiple consumers; instead, a regional center seeking a waiver for more than one consumer with a uniform enhanced rate should submit one request and include information about each consumer.
- The Department is not obligated to issue approvals for retroactive effective dates; therefore, regional centers are encouraged to submit requests as soon as possible after the need becomes known. Submission by email is required.

Regional Center Executive Directors
September 13, 2018
Page three

- Requests must be submitted to the Department no later than 30 days after the regional center receives the request from the provider. If the regional center does not have all necessary information for the H&S request within 30 days, the regional center must notify the Department of the missing information and the expected date the information will be received by the regional center from the provider.
- The Department will acknowledge receipt of each H&S exemption request via email.
- It is the regional center's responsibility to monitor the necessity for increases in rates on an ongoing basis, based upon the services and supports required by the consumers in question and to notify the Department if the need for the exemption changes.
- H&S requests should be sent to RCBhealthandsafety@dds.ca.gov and brian.winfield@dds.ca.gov.

If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, please contact Rapone Anderson, Regional Center Branch Manager, at (916) 654-3722, or by email, at rapone.anderson@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

BRIAN WINFIELD
Deputy Director
Community Services Division

Enclosures

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Chief Counselors
Regional Center Community Services Directors
Association of Regional Center Agencies
Rapone Anderson, Department of Developmental Services

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 310, MS 3-4
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TDD 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)
(916) 653-2550



Sent via email

Date: September 7, 2018

To: REGIONAL CENTER DIRECTORS
REGIONAL CENTER ADMINISTRATORS

From: Regional Center Allocation Unit

Subject: REVISED E-1 ALLOCATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-19

Attached are worksheets displaying revised and corrected allocation amounts to be included in the 2018-19 E-1 Contract Amendment that your regional center will receive within the next few weeks. The revision includes a net \$3,627,000 reduction in Core Staffing and Operating Expenses as compared to the original E-1 Intent Letter dated 08/15/2018. This resulted from a correction to the number of intakes and assessments upon which Intake Worker, Supervising Intake Counselor, and Secretary I positions are based. The Department worked with ARCA and reached agreement on the revised allocation.

In addition to a reduction in Core Staffing funds, the correction resulted in a redistribution of the majority of unallocated reductions. More specifically, as detailed in Exhibit II, six of the unallocated reductions are distributed based on each regional center's pro rata share of total Core Staffing.

If you have any questions regarding the revised allocation, please contact Darla Keys, Manager, RC Allocation Unit, at (916) 654-2255.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

PATTI MERICANTANTE, Deputy Director
Administration Division

Attachments

cc: Nancy Bargmann, DDS
John Doyle, DDS
Brian Winfield, DDS
Jim Knight, DDS
Kellie Gillman, DDS

Jennifer Harris, DDS
Darla Keys, DDS
Matthew Singh, DDS
Amy Westling, ARCA
John Popadak, ARCA

"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"

M e m o r a n d u m

Date: September 14, 2018

TO: EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS – DDS Developmental Centers

From: Developmental Centers Division
1600 Ninth Street, Room 340, MS 3-17
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 654-1963

Subject: **2018 STATE CAPITOL 87th ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY**

For more than 29 years, ornaments made by persons with developmental disabilities have adorned the state tree. In the past few years, we have had a tremendous response from developmental centers and community art programs, and delivered several hundred ornaments to the capitol. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has been asked once again to participate in the official State Capitol Tree Lighting Ceremony. We are sending out requests for ornaments to all developmental centers, regional centers, and community art programs.

The tree lighting ceremony will tentatively take place on the first week of December. This year, as with previous years, a child with a developmental disability who receives services from a regional center will participate in the televised ceremony. The child will place one of the ornaments onto the tree during the ceremony with Governor Jerry Brown and First Lady Anne Gust Brown.

To be included on the tree, all ornaments must be received at DDS Headquarters by Friday, November 9th. Enclosed are suggestions for the ornaments and a shipping form. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Lungren, Assistant Director of Communications at (916) 654-1820, (916) 654-1884, or at nancy.lungren@dds.ca.gov, or Terry Gonzales at terry.gonzales@dds.ca.gov at (916) 654-1963.



NORMAN KRAMER
Interim Deputy Director
Developmental Centers Division

Enclosures

cc: Nancy Bargmann, Director, DDS
Nancy Lungren, Assistant Director, Communications, DDS

"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"

Suggested Guidelines for Ornaments

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Ship to: Department of Developmental Services
DEVELOPMENTAL CENTERS DIVISION
1600 9th Street, Room 340, MS 3-17
Sacramento, CA 95814
ATTN: Terry Gonzales/TREE ORNAMENTS

2018 State Capitol Tree Lighting Ceremony Ornament Shipping Form

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CONTACT PERSON/TITLE: _____

STREET MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

CONTACT EMAIL: _____

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DDS WEBSITE at <http://www.dds.ca.gov/Newsroom/TreeLighting.cfm>**

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TOTAL NUMBER OF ORNAMENTS SHIPPED: _____

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 320, MS 3-8
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TTY (916) 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)
(916) 654-1954



October 4, 2018

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: MEDI-CAL RATE INCREASE FOR HOME HEALTH SERVICES

On September 17, 2018, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved California's State Plan Amendment (SPA), authorizing increases in Medi-Cal rates effective July 1, 2018 for some services, including rates for Home Health Agency and nursing services. As a result, this increases the maximum rates for regional center funded services established using the "Schedule of Maximum Allowances", as referenced in Title 17, California Code of Regulations, Section 57322. For applicable services and providers, regional centers should process rate adjustments with an effective date of July 1, 2018. Please refer to Enclosure A for a listing of the specific Medi-Cal procedure codes and their new rates. Regional centers can use this listing to assist in determining which services/providers may be impacted by these changes.

Also enclosed is a copy of the approved SPA (Enclosure B). If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Yasir Ali, Chief, Rates and Fiscal Support Section, at (916) 654-2302 or yasir.ali@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

JIM KNIGHT
Assistant Deputy Director
Community Services Division

Enclosures

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Chief Counselors
Regional Center Community Services Directors
Association of Regional Center Agencies

"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"

Medi-Cal Rates Increased, Effective July 1, 2018

Procedure Code	Medi-Cal Rate as of June 30, 2018	Medi-Cal Rate Effective July 1, 2018
Z5804	\$31.94	\$47.91
Z5805	\$35.13	\$52.70
Z5806	\$24.42	\$36.63
Z5807	\$26.86	\$40.29
Z5832	\$40.57	\$60.86
Z5833	\$44.63	\$66.95

Procedure Code	Medi-Cal Rate as of June 30, 2018	Medi-Cal Rate Effective July 1, 2018
Z5834	\$29.41	\$44.12
Z5835	\$32.35	\$48.53
Z5836	\$45.43	\$68.15
Z5838	\$18.90	\$28.35
Z5840	\$35.77	\$53.66
Z5868	\$29.41	\$44.12

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
San Francisco Regional Office
90 Seventh Street, Suite 5-300 (5W)
San Francisco, CA 94103-6706



DIVISION OF MEDICAID & CHILDREN'S HEALTH OPERATIONS

September 17, 2018

Mari Cantwell
Chief Deputy Director, Health Care Programs
California Department of Health Care Services
P.O. Box 997413, MS 0000
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

Dear Ms. Cantwell:

Enclosed is an approved copy of California State Plan Amendment (SPA) 18-0037, which was submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on July 2, 2018. SPA 18-0037 allows the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to sunset the current one percent payment reduction applicable to Home Health Agency (HHA) services and to increase reimbursement rates by 50 percent for state plan HHA services and certain Pediatric Day Health Center (PDHC) services effective July 1, 2018. The rate increase also will apply to HHA services under the approved 1915(i) home and community-based services SPA and the applicable 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers.

The effective date of this SPA is July 1, 2018. Enclosed are the following approved SPA pages that should be incorporated into your approved state plan:

- Attachment 4.19-B, page 3.4
- Attachment 4.19-B, page 20a

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Young at 415-744-3598 or via email at Cheryl.Young@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Hye Sun Lee
Acting Associate Regional Administrator
Division of Medicaid & Children's Health Operations

Enclosures

cc: Lindy Harrington, DHCS
Connie Florez, DHCS
Nathaniel Emery, DHCS
Angeli Lee, DHCS

TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF STATE PLAN MATERIAL		1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER: 18-0037	2. STATE California
FOR: HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION		3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT (MEDICAID)	
TO: REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE July 1, 2018	
5. TYPE OF PLAN MATERIAL (<i>Check One</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> NEW STATE PLAN <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDMENT TO BE CONSIDERED AS NEW PLAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AMENDMENT			
COMPLETE BLOCKS 6 THRU 10 IF THIS IS AN AMENDMENT (<i>Separate Transmittal for each amendment</i>)			
6. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION: Budget Act of 2018 42 CFR 447, Subpart F		7. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT: a. FFY —2017 2018 \$15,899,400 b. FFY —2018 2019 \$47,698,200	
8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT: Attachment 4.19-B, page 3.2-3.4 Attachment 4.19-B, page 20a		9. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT (<i>If Applicable</i>): Attachment 4.19-B, page 3.2-3.4(TN: 08-009B1)- Attachment 4.19-B, page 20a (TN: 05-026)-	
10. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT: Ends 1% reimbursement reduction for Home Health Agency (HHA) services and provides a rate increase for HHA and Pediatric Day Health Care services, effective July 1, 2018.			
11. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (<i>Check One</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER, AS SPECIFIED: <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED The Governor's Office does not <input type="checkbox"/> NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL wish to review the State Plan Amendment.			
12. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL: ORIGINAL SIGNED		16. RETURN TO: Department of Health Care Services Attn: State Plan Coordinator 1501 Capitol Avenue, Suite 71.326 P.O. Box 997417 Sacramento, CA 95899-7417	
13. TYPED NAME: Mari Cantwell			
14. TITLE: State Medicaid Director			
15. DATE SUBMITTED: July 2, 2018			
FOR REGIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY			
17. DATE RECEIVED: July 2, 2018		18. DATE APPROVED: September 17, 2018	
PLAN APPROVED – ONE COPY ATTACHED			
19. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL: July 1, 2018		20. SIGNATURE OF REGIONAL OFFICIAL: /s/	
21. TYPED NAME: Hye Sun Lee		22. TITLE: Acting Associate Regional Administrator, Division of Medicaid & Children's Health Operations.	
23. REMARKS: Box 6 & 7: CMS made a pen & ink change to delete the state law reference & add the federal regulatory citation and correct Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) per email with DHCS on 9/12/18. Box 8 & 9: CMS made pen & ink changes to correct the pages that were submitted and superseded and to delete references to previous SPAs. Note that only Att. 4.19-B, page 3.2 was submitted and will be superseded; CA never submitted pages 3.3 or 3.4 per emails with DHCS dated 7/16/18 and 9/14/18.			

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
STATE: California

- (8) For dates of service on or after March 1, 2009, reimbursement for the following outpatient services described on page 1, paragraph (2), otherwise payable in accordance with the methods and standards described on page 1, paragraph (1), in this Attachment 4.19-B are reduced by one percent:
- Any and all services provided and billed by Physicians and Clinics to beneficiaries less than age 21, as described in Attachment 3.1-A, sections 5a and 9.
 - Home health services, as described in Attachment 3.1-A, section 7 (refer to rates on page 20a in this Attachment).
 - For dates of service on or after July 1, 2018, the one percent reduction for home health services, as described in Attachment 3.1-A, section 7, is terminated and no longer applicable.
- (9) For dates of service on or after March 1, 2009, through and including May 31, 2011, reimbursement for outpatient services described on page 1, paragraph (2), otherwise payable in accordance with the methods and standards described on page 1, paragraph (1), in this Attachment 4.19-B will be reduced by one percent. Providers and services subject to this reduction include:
- a. Any and all services provided and billed by Physicians and Clinics to beneficiaries aged 21 and older, as described in Attachment 3.1-A, sections 5a and 9.
 - b. Medical transportation (emergency and nonemergency), as described in Attachment 3.1-A, section 24a, and in Attachment 3.1-B, section 23a.
 - c. Services provided and billed by Optometrists, as described in Attachment 3.1-A, section 6b.
 - d. Services provided and billed by Dentists, as described in Attachment 3.1-A, section 10.
 - e. Providers and services included in Supplement 15 of this Attachment.
- (10) For dates of service on or after March 1, 2009, through and including April 5, 2009, and dates of service on or after January 1, 2011, through and including April 12, 2011, reimbursement for outpatient hospital services set forth in Attachment 3.1-A, section 2a, rendered in and billed by a hospital outpatient department, described on page 1, paragraph (2), otherwise payable in accordance with the methods and standards described on page 1, paragraph (1), in this Attachment 4.19-B, are reduced by one percent.

Reimbursement Rates for Home Health (HH) as defined under 1905(a)(7) and Rehabilitative Services - Pediatric Day Health Care Services as defined under 1905(a)(13)(C)

The State-developed fee schedule rates are the same for both public and private providers of Home Health and Pediatric Day Health Care (PDHC) services provided under Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services. The rates in effect on June 30, 2018 for Home Health and PDHC services will be increased by 50 percent, effective July 1, 2018, as shown in the table below. This paragraph supersedes any prior provisions concerning reimbursement for Home Health and/or PDHC services in the State Plan. All Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service rates are published at: <http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/rates/rateshome.asp>

Procedure Code	Medi-Cal Rate Effective July 1, 2018	Procedure Code	Medi-Cal Rate Effective July 1, 2018
Z5804	\$47.91	Z5834	\$44.12
Z5805	\$52.70	Z5835	\$48.53
Z5806	\$36.63	Z5836	\$68.15
Z5807	\$40.29	Z5838	\$28.35
Z5832	\$60.86	Z5840	\$53.66
Z5833	\$66.95	Z5868	\$44.12



Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention



Mr. Mac Taylor
Legislative Analyst Office
925 L Street, #1000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Taylor,

The Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention is grateful for the interest shown by the Legislative Analyst's Office to the system of care that is serving infants and toddlers with special needs in California. We endorse the value of a comprehensive assessment of the system. Council members and community representatives include state agencies, parents, providers, university professors, and organizations addressing young children from birth to five. They read the January 2018 Report with attentiveness leading to significant discussions, comments and questions which we would like to share with you.

- Infants and toddlers who are hearing, visually or orthopedically-impaired have unique needs that require specially trained providers who have the understanding and skills currently held by credentialed special education teachers in the school system. Per-child expenditures can be accounted for partially by the unique understanding and skills needed. The impact of required additional costs needs to be addressed.
- California Children's Services, an important part of a System of Care for children with special needs, was not addressed.
- It would be helpful to cite the sources for data regarding families who waited months to be referred and for the Parent Satisfaction graphs.
- Unique challenges of serving infants and toddlers in rural areas need to be addressed more comprehensively.
- Identified barriers related to the required use of medical insurance needs to be addressed. Access, lack of community provider pediatric training with infants, toddlers and families, and the federal mandate for services to be delivered in natural environments are the pertinent issues.

- The different provider training standards required by the Department of Developmental Services and the California Department of Education need to be reconciled before any merger is considered.
- It has been reported that current Regional Center Early Start caseloads are currently too high. This needs to be rectified before a merger is considered.
- California performs worse than other states in facilitating transition from early intervention services to preschool special education. HOWEVER, there is variability among the Regional Centers and this could be rectified by technical assistance being provided by those who are successful.
- Concern has been expressed that since 2003, most Early Start vendored program providers have only had rate increases due to the statewide minimum wage. This needs to be rectified before a merger is considered. Allied health provider rates through Medi-Cal have also been largely unchanged. The cost implications need to be considered before a merger is considered.
- The following background information would be helpful: The Governor of each state designates the Lead Agency for implementation of Part C early intervention under IDEA. California designated Health & Human Services/Department of Developmental Services as the Lead Agency and the system in place designated CDE as an administrative partner serving identified populations of eligible Part C infants and toddlers.
- There are current statutes and regulations in California under Government Code, Lanterman, California Education Code that would need to be reviewed and addressed following appropriate procedures should any change to the current structure and responsibilities would be ultimately recommended.

Here is the list of federal and state statute and regulations:

- FEDERAL STATUTE: 20 U.S. Code Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) - Subchapter III - Part C Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (§§ 1431 to 1444)
- FEDERAL REGULATIONS: 34 C.F.R. Parts 300 and 303 Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers With Disabilities

- FEDERAL REGULATIONS: 34 C.F.R. Parts 300 and 303 Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers With Disabilities
- STATE STATUTE: Title 14 California Early Intervention Services Act (CEISA)
- STATE REGULATIONS: Title 17 C.C.R. 52000-52175 Early Intervention Services
- STATE REGULATIONS: Part 30 Education Code Chapter 4.4 Early Education for Individuals with Exceptional Needs

Once again, I want to thank you for your interest in the service system for infants and toddlers with special needs. I would like to meet and review with you some of our issues and address any questions you may have about our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie Kanne Poulsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marie" and last name "Poulsen" being more prominent than the middle name "Kanne".

Marie Kanne Poulsen, Ph.D

Chair, Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention

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