
AGENDA ITEM 8

Action

July 28, 2016 Commission Meeting

Support Assembly Bill 2279 (Cooley)

Summary: Emily Berry, Science and Technology Fellow, Office of Assemblyman Ken Cooley, will provide an overview of Assembly Bill 2279 (Cooley) to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission).

Under current law, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), in consultation with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission) and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, is required to develop and administer instructions for the Annual Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Revenue and Expenditure Report which is to:

- Identify the expenditure of funds
- Quantify the amount of additional funds generated for the mental health system
- Identify unexpended funds and interest earned on funds
- Determine reversion amounts from prior fiscal year distributions

This bill, as currently drafted, refines the county fiscal reporting requirements that are in the MHSA Revenue and Expenditure Report. Counties would be required to report:

- Total amount of MHSA money received and expended for each specified component of the MHSA
- Funds subject to reversion
- MHSA money spent on program administration, research and evaluation
- Funds used to support joint powers authorities

The bill would require the State Department of Health Care Services, based on the Annual MHSA Revenue and Expenditure Report, to compile information, statewide and county-by-county on an annual basis.

The bill also authorizes, but does not require, counties to provide information about programs that address specific areas such as:

- Homelessness
- Suicide prevention
- Criminal justice diversion
- School based mental health programs designed to reduce school failure
- Employment or other programs intended to reduce unemployment;
- Reduction or prevention of involvement with the child welfare system;
- Stigma reduction;
- Reduction of racial and ethnic disparities; and
- Programs designed to meet the needs of specific populations such as, children, youths, adults, veterans, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Queer, and Questioning (LGBTQQ).

The bill would require DHCS to consult with the Commission when implementing these new reporting requirements. The bill would require the department to make the collected information available to the Legislature and the public on its Internet Web site no later than July 1, 2018, and annually thereafter.

Presenter: Emily Berry, Science and Technology Fellow, Assembly Member Cooley's Office

Enclosures: Assembly Bill (AB) 2279 (Cooley) as last amended in Senate June 13, 2016; AB 2279 (Cooley) as introduced; Fact Sheet; and Senate Committee on Health Analysis.

Handout: None

Recommended Action: Staff requests direction from the Commission regarding Assembly Bill 2279.

Proposed Motion: The Commission directs the MHSOAC Executive Director to send Assembly Member Cooley's Office a letter supporting the increase in Mental Health Services Act transparency.