

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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(916) 654-1958



August 3, 2017

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: PROGRAM DIRECTIVE TO REGIONAL CENTERS REGARDING THE
REPEAL OF THE RESPITE RESTRICTIONS PER WELFARE AND
INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 4686.5

The purpose of this correspondence is to ensure regional centers are aware of and will take proactive steps to inform their community of the repeal of Welfare and Institutions Code section 4686.5. Currently, regional centers are limited to purchasing no more than 90 hours per quarter of in-home respite and 21 days of out-of-home respite for a family, unless an exemption is granted. Effective January 1, 2018, these limits on the purchase of respite services will no longer apply.

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is requesting that regional centers conduct outreach and work with families, providers and local community organizations to facilitate awareness about the repeal of these restrictions on the purchase of respite. Regional centers' outreach and information sharing should extend to individuals and families who may not typically avail themselves of respite or other regional center purchased services, but who may benefit from these services.

Welfare and Institutions Code section 4646 (a), specifies the Legislature's intent that "...the individual program plan and provision of services and supports by the regional center system is centered on the individual and the family of the individual with developmental disabilities and takes into account the needs and preferences of the individual and the family, where appropriate, as well as promoting community integration, independent, productive, and normal lives, and stable and healthy environments."

In addition to conducting proactive outreach, regional centers should revise their Respite Services purchase of service policies, and submit them to DDS, no later than November 1, 2017, for review and approval to be effective January 1, 2018.

"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"

Regional Center Executive Directors
August 3, 2017
Page two

DDS will translate this correspondence into Spanish and both the English and Spanish versions will be posted on DDS' website.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact the DDS' Regional Center Branch, at (916) 651-6309.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

BRIAN WINFIELD
Deputy Director
Community Services Division

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Chief Counselors
Amy Westling, ARCA