



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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March 20, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

This memorandum contains pursuits of County positions on legislation related to: 1) the UCLA International Medical Graduate Pilot Program; 2) the extension of the sunset date for Laura's Law; and 3) an overview of recommendations released by the Legislative Analyst's Office regarding the Governor Brown's In-Home Supportive Services FY 2012-13 Budget proposals.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

AB 1533 (Mitchell), which as introduced on January 23, 2012, would establish the five-year University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) David Geffen School of Medicine's International Medical Graduate (IMG) Pilot Program.

Since 2006, the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA has operated a program to prepare English-Spanish speaking, bi-cultural graduates from accredited medical schools outside of the United States to enter accredited family medicine programs in California. However, under current State law, IMG trainees are neither medical students nor medical residents; therefore, they are not authorized to engage in hands-on clinical training, even at the level of a medical student.

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AB 1533 would authorize IMG trainees participating in the pilot program to receive hands-on clinical instruction, if they meet the following requirements: 1) graduated from a medical school recognized by the Medical Board of California; 2) passed the United States Medical Licensing Examinations Steps 1 and 2; and 3) submitted an application and materials to the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates. Once accepted into the pilot program, participants would receive up to 24 weeks of supervised, clinical instruction at health care facilities operated by UCLA or other designated UCLA-approved teaching sites, including hospitals or clinics. The pilot program would sunset on January 1, 2019.

According to the Department of Health Services, AB 1533 would help to train additional physicians who would provide services for County residents living in medically underserved areas.

The Department of Health Services and this office support AB 1533. Therefore, consistent with existing Board policy to: 1) support proposals for training slots at public universities and teaching hospitals; 2) expand workforce development funding and training programs for nursing and other allied health professions; and 3) recruit and retain physicians to work for providers who serve primarily poor or medically uninsured patients who rely on the medical safety net system for health care in medically underserved areas, **the Sacramento Advocates will support AB 1533.**

AB 1533 is sponsored by the University of California and the Medical Board of California. There is no registered support or opposition at this time.

This measure is scheduled for a hearing in the Assembly Business, Professions, and Consumer Protection Committee on March 27, 2012.

AB 1569 (Allen), which as introduced January 31, 2012, would extend the provisions of Laura's Law from January 1, 2013 to January 1, 2019.

Laura's Law, as enacted under AB 1421 (Chapter 1017, Statutes of 2002), permits counties to establish assisted outpatient mental health treatment programs to provide intensive mental health services for adults who, as a result of their inability to maintain their own treatment regimen, are a danger to themselves and/or others. The law allows counties to establish pilot projects to legally authorize involuntary outpatient treatment for clients who did not voluntarily accept treatment, but whose condition was not severe enough to require hospitalization. However, due to the lack of funding, only Nevada County has implemented a pilot project. Laura's Law is currently scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2013.

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) currently has implemented the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program which is funded with Mental Health Services Act funds (Proposition 63). Participation in the program is voluntary and services are provided through a contract with Gateways Hospital and Mental Health Center. The program has the capacity to serve ten clients at any given time with the average length of stay of six months. Clients receive intensive supportive services in a residential setting.

According to the Department of Mental Health, from April 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011, 18 clients participated in the AOT Program. Seven of those clients have been discharged to lower levels of care. DMH indicates that although this program is small, it has been successful in assisting individuals become stable and reintegrate into the community while reducing homelessness, hospitalizations, and involvement with local law enforcement. However, funding is needed to increase program capacity and serve more County residents with severe mental illnesses who may be a risk to themselves or others.

The Department of Mental Health and this office support provisions of AB 1569 which would extend Laura's Law. Therefore, consistent with your Board action of December 20, 2012 to support an extension of Laura's Law with amendments to: 1) include State implementation funds; 2) allow more flexibility by county mental health departments in the provision of AOT services by changing the requirement to provide the same services for individuals not in AOT; and 3) streamline and facilitate the administrative and legal processes for admission, readmission, and ongoing treatment including the administration of medication, **the Sacramento Advocates will take a support and amend position on AB 1569 to include the amendments sought by your Board, as described above.**

AB 1569 is sponsored by Assembly Member Mike Allen, D-Santa Rosa. Currently there is no registered support or opposition on file.

AB 1569 is scheduled for a hearing in the Assembly Health Committee on March 27, 2012.

Legislative Analyst's Office Report on Governor's IHSS Budget Proposal

On March 20, 2012, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released its budget recommendation regarding the Governor's FY 2012-13 Budget proposal to make significant changes to the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program. As previously reported, the Governor's Budget proposes to transition IHSS from a fee-for-service benefit to a managed care benefit, and also proposes to eliminate domestic and related

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care services for most IHSS recipients who live with another person. The LAO indicates that this proposed reduction presents significant legal and implementation challenges, and instead offers the Legislature two savings alternatives for its consideration. The first alternative is to consider extending a 3.6 percent across-the-board reduction in service hours that is set to expire at the end of the current year. The second alternative is to consider reenacting a reduction in State participation in provider wages to a level determined by a study that does not impact recipient access to services.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:VE:OR:sb

c: All Department Heads
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