

COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM DETAIL SHEET

ISSUE: Which aspects of the special session of the California legislature should the Council support?

SUMMARY: Governor Brown called for an extraordinary (special) session of the legislature to deal with health and human services issues not specifically addressed in the new Fiscal Year 2015-16 state budget. The special session began on June 19, 2015.

ANALYSIS/BACKGROUND: There are two main types of legislative sessions—regular and special. A regular session is the annual or biennial gathering of legislators, the starting and ending dates are set by constitution or statute.

Unlike regular sessions, there is no specific timing for special sessions. They occur intermittently to deal with the specific issues or topics. Usually, the scope of a special session—that is, the topics that may be taken up—is limited to the issues specified in the notice calling for the special session.

On June 16, 2015, Governor Brown called a special session of the legislature to enact permanent and sustainable funding to provide additional rate increases for providers of Medi-Cal and developmental disabilities services. The Governor also called on the legislature to increase oversight of services provided to people with developmental disabilities through the regional center system.

DISCUSSION: The governor's proclamation calling for a special session mentions funding to stabilize Medi-Cal and IHHS, as well as expanding access to I/DD services and the improving the scope and efficacy of those services.

ATTACHMENTS: Governor's proclamation.

RECOMMENDATION: Support advocating on behalf of the issues and concerns expressed by Governor Brown in his proclamation.

PREPARED BY: Bob Giovati

SBX 2-1 (Beall)
Financial Sustainability
Senators Bill Monning and Fran Pavley (Principal Coauthors)

BACKGROUND

Service providers are the backbone of the developmental disabilities system. Without them, thousands of people with developmental disabilities would be in institutional care. Over 280,000 people with developmental disabilities rely on services from 21 California Regional Centers and their 65,000 service providers.

Years of budget cut-backs have decimated the community-based developmental disability services system, closing homes and programs that served tens of thousands. The latest Fact Book published by the Department of Developmental Services reports a 30 percent drop in the care system's network of service vendors during the past six years.

NEED FOR THE BILL

California spending on persons with developmental disabilities is lowest in the nation. We have the highest caseload ratios in the country and some of the lowest provider rates.

Since 2009, over \$1 billion has been slashed from California's developmental disability services programs through restrictions on payments, across-the-board reductions, mandated holidays, suspension of services and other cuts. At the same time, the community system grew by more than 40,000 consumers.

The system is in crisis. Without a rate increase, the provider system will collapse. In three years, 435 community care homes have closed. This figure does not include unlicensed settings such as supportive living and independent living homes. Doing nothing puts the lives of California's most vulnerable and poor in jeopardy.

SB X2-1 will increase rates for regional centers and purchase of service vendors. In addition, it requires the Department of Developmental Services to craft a financial sustainability plan to ensure that the community-based developmental services system effectively serves all its clients.

THIS BILL

SBX2 1 mandates:

- Provides a 10% increase in the funding paid to a regional center and purchase-of-service vendors;
- Requires funding to enable the regional center and the regional center's purchase-of-service vendors to fund certain costs related to minimum wage requirements; and
- Requires the Department of Developmental Services to develop a 10-year financial sustainability plan.

SPONSOR

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

KEY CONTACTS

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Agenda Item 10. State Budget Update

- Governor Brown called for an extraordinary (special) session of the legislature to deal with health and human services issues not specifically addressed in the new Fiscal Year 2015-16 state budget. The special session began on June 19, 2015.
- Furthermore, the governor's proclamation calling for a special session mentions funding to stabilize Medi-Cal and IHHS, as well as expanding access to I/DD services and the improving the scope and efficacy of those services.
- Should the Council act to support the purposes outlined in Governor Browns proclamation on pages 149-150 of the Council packet?

SBX 2-1 (BEALL)

- Provides a 10% increase in the funding paid to a regional center and purchase-of-service vendors;
- Requires funding to enable the regional center and the regional center's purchase-of-service vendors to fund certain costs related to minimum wage requirements; and
- Requires the Department of Developmental Services to develop a 10-year financial sustainability plan.
- Should the Council act to support SBX 2-1 (Beall), as it aligns with the goals of the Lanterman Coalition?

