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GOVERNOR

July 1, 2024

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: UPDATED REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLECTING RACE, ETHNICITY,
AND LANGUAGE DATA

This directive provides newly required response options for collecting race, ethnicity, preferred language, sexual orientation, gender identity, residence code, and status code information. All regional centers must start collecting information using these response options no later than January 1, 2025, pursuant to Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 4435.1(b), as added by budget trailer bill SB 138 (Statutes of 2023), Chapter 192, Section 7. This directive is issued pursuant to W&I Code section 4435.1(h), which authorizes the Department of Developmental Services (Department) to implement, interpret, or make specific its provisions through written directives until regulations are effective.

Race, ethnicity, preferred language, gender identity, residence code, and status code information already is collected by regional centers. Questions about sexual orientation are newly added. The Department's newly required response options, as detailed in the Enclosures to this directive, expand the available response options. In some other cases, existing response options will be renamed or their use will be ceased after January 1, 2025. The categories established by the Department are on the Enclosures listed below:

- Race and ethnicity (Enclosure A)
- Preferred language (Enclosure B)
- Sexual orientation and gender identity (Enclosure C)
- Residence codes (Enclosure D)
- Status codes (Enclosure E)

Regional centers must start recording this information using these newly required response options, as identified by each individual supported by the regional center, no later than January 1, 2025. This information must be recorded at the time of initial intake, at assessment, and at the individual program plan meeting following the individual's 18th birthday. The law allows individuals to update their demographic information at any time. It also states that the individual, their parent(s), legal guardian, conservator, or authorized representative cannot be forced to provide this demographic information.

The Legislature's intents in enacting these requirements are: (1) to provide more statewide uniformity and consistency and promote equity in the administrative practices and services of regional centers, and (2) to promote service access and equity in all

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regional center services and programs. More detailed categories will allow the people we support to more easily self-identify and to see themselves in future data available about the developmental disabilities services system.

Implementation of this directive will require changes to SANDIS and other case management systems. The Department will collaborate with regional centers to begin this process. Training for regional centers, and education for the individuals and families we support, will be provided in the months between release of this directive and January 1, 2025.

Questions from individuals and families about this directive should be directed to the Department's data task force, at dtf@dds.ca.gov. Questions from regional centers should be directed to me, at pete.cervinka@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

PETE CERVINKA
Chief, Data Analytics and Strategy

Enclosures

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services
Regional Center Community Services Directors
Association of Regional Center Agencies
Nancy Bargmann, Department of Developmental Services
Brian Winfield, Department of Developmental Services
Carla Castañeda, Department of Developmental Services
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