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TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AND  
BOARD PRESIDENTS

SUBJECT: 2024 TRAILER BILL LANGUAGE SUMMARY

The purpose of this letter is to provide a summary of the 2024 Developmental Services Budget Trailer Bill, AB 162 (Chapter 47, Statutes of 2024), which affects regional centers, state-operated services, and the developmental disabilities services system. The changes made by AB 162 became effective on July 12, 2024 upon enactment of the bill, unless otherwise specified by the statute. While this letter provides a high-level summary of AB 162, a complete and thorough review of the bill by regional centers is imperative for statutory compliance. **A number of requirements and due dates for regional centers are included in this directive**, to avoid the need for directives on individual topics. Below is a list of areas affected by, and/or new requirements resulting from AB 162, and the bill's sections where relevant statutory changes can be found:

- [Remote Individualized Family Service Plan \(IFSP\) Meetings](#)
- [Provisional Eligibility Assessments](#)
- [Developmental Services Provider Rate Reform](#)
- [Master Plan for Developmental Services](#)
- [Remote Individual Program Plan \(IPP\) Meetings](#)
- [Probability Sampling and Statistical Extrapolation](#)
- [Social Recreation and Camp Services](#)
- [Direct Support Professional \(DSP\) Internship Program](#)
- [Regional Center Family Fees](#)

**Remote Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Meetings**

**AB 162 Section 2:** Government Code Section 95020 was amended to do two separate things:

- Indefinitely allow remote IFSP meetings at the request of the parent or legal guardian.
- Require that if a regional center has not held an in-person meeting in the previous six months, the regional center must meet in-person at a convenient location and time for the individual and their representative.

The in-person meeting requirement is separate from the allowance for remote meetings to develop or revise the IFSP. The in-person meeting requirement should not delay the development or revision of the IFSP nor the receipt of services and support. If the

parent or legal guardian chooses an in-person IFSP meeting, that meeting also satisfies the in-person meeting requirement.

*Implementation: Regional centers must review the language changes to comply and update policies, procedures, publications, and other materials as needed to reflect these changes. The Department is required to review the impact of implementation of this in-person meeting requirement, including whether and to what extent the in-person requirements are effective in assisting the infant or toddler in meeting the goals stated in the IFSP, in positively facilitating and improving service access and equity, and in helping to build relationships between service coordinators and parents, legal guardians, or authorized representatives. After consulting with and receiving input from stakeholders, the Department must provide an update to the Legislature by January 10, 2026, and a completed review by May 14, 2026.*

### **Provisional Eligibility Assessments**

AB 162 Section 3: Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4512(a)(2) was amended and removes the requirement that a regional center must first rule out a developmental disability for children ages birth through 4 years prior to establishing provisional eligibility for regional center services (status U). This change does not affect the process to determine eligibility (status 2) for children with a diagnosed developmental disability that constitutes a substantial disability per subsection (I) of Section 4512.

Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4512(a)(3)(B) was amended to allow concurrent assessment, if appropriate, of infants or toddlers referred for early intervention services under the California Early Intervention Services Act, to determine their provisional eligibility for regional center services.

For children turning 3 years old who receive only early intervention services, the regional center shall assess the child at least 90 days prior to the date that they turn three years of age to determine their eligibility or provisional eligibility for Lanterman Act services. If the regional center determines the child is not eligible, they must provide adequate notice.

*Implementation: Regional centers must review the language changes to comply and update policies, procedures, publications, and other materials as needed, to reflect these changes.*

### **Developmental Services Provider Rate Reform**

AB 162 Section 4: Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4519.10 was amended to delay the final phase of developmental services rate reform implementation from July 1, 2024, to January 1, 2025.

*Implementation: The Department of Developmental Services (Department) will continue to release a series of directives to regional centers to fully implement new rate models effective January 1, 2025. As rate reform directives are released, the Department is arranging training and outreach to regional centers and service providers. The training provides technical guidance on rate model alignment, rate workbooks, and other general rate reform topics. For additional information and links to the directives, the Department's rate reform page is [here](#).*

### **Master Plan for Developmental Services**

**AB 162 Section 5:** Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4580 makes several declarations regarding the developmental services system in California. It establishes legislative intent that the Master Plan for Developmental Services aims to strengthen accessibility, quality, and equity for all individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and their families. It requires the Secretary of the California Health & Human Services Agency, in coordination with the Department, to lead the development of the Master Plan for Developmental Services. The Secretary also is required to gather input from individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, professionals in the developmental services field, and subject matter experts. Additionally, it requires the submission of an initial report of the Master Plan to the Legislature and Governor by March 15, 2025, and the ongoing submission of regular implementation updates beginning March 15, 2026.

*Implementation: There is no immediate impact on regional centers.*

### **Remote Individual Program Plan (IPP) Meetings**

**AB 162 Section 7:** Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4646(f)(1)(2) was amended to do two separate things:

- Indefinitely allow remote IPP meetings if requested by the individual, their parent, or their other representative.
- Require that if an in-person meeting has not occurred in the past 12 months, the regional center must meet in-person at a convenient location and time for the individual, their parent, or their other representative.

The in-person meeting requirement is separate from the allowance for remote meetings to develop or revise the IPP. The in-person meeting requirement should not delay the development or revision of the IPP nor the receipt of services and support. If the individual, their parent, or their other representative chooses an in-person IPP meeting, that meeting also satisfies the in-person meeting requirement.

*Implementation: Regional centers must review the language changes to comply and update policies, procedures, publications, and other materials, as needed, to reflect these changes. The Department is required to review the impact of this in-person meeting requirement, including whether and to what extent the in-person requirements*

*are effective in assisting the individual in meeting the goals stated in the individual program plan, in positively facilitating and improving service access and equity, and in helping to build relationships between service coordinators and parents, legal guardians, conservators, or authorized representatives. After consulting with and receiving input from stakeholders, the Department must provide an update to the Legislature by January 10, 2026, and a completed review by May 14, 2026.*

### **Probability Sampling and Statistical Extrapolation**

**AB 162 Section 8:** Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4648.13 was added to allow the Department and regional centers to use probability sampling and statistical extrapolation when conducting fiscal audits of service providers.

***Implementation:** The Department will identify a qualified statistician to determine appropriate sample sizes and guide development of a sampling and extrapolation methodology. A regional center may use the Department's methodology or adopt its own.*

### **Social Recreation, Camping, and Non-Medical Therapy Services**

**AB 162 Section 11:** Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4688.22 was amended to require regional centers to have purchase of services policies that promote access to social recreation services, camping services, and nonmedical therapies in a way that encourages community inclusion and access for children, individuals facing disparities, and people who cannot afford upfront payment for services. Regional centers are prohibited from having restrictive policies that generally prevent or disfavor the purchase of these services, or that prohibit the purchase of 1:1 individual-to-staff services, including private lessons.

- By October 1, 2024, regional centers assigned points of contacts to the Department for social recreation services, camping services, and nonmedical therapies.
- By January 1, 2025, regional centers must adopt procedures to increase the availability of vendors for these services, including funding through participant-directed services.
- By March 1, 2025, various regional center staff must complete training regarding social recreation and other services.

***Implementation:** The Department issued [guidance](#) to regional centers on August 28, 2024. Regional centers must review the language changes to comply and update policies, procedures, publications, and other materials as needed to reflect these changes.*

**Direct Support Professional (DSP) Internship Program**

SB 162 Section 12: Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4699.3 was amended to allow the Department to administer an entry-level training and internship program for individuals interested in becoming direct support professionals, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature.

*Implementation:* The Department issued [guidance](#) to regional centers on August 30, 2024. The Program offers 2,500 entry-level DSP interns paid opportunities for up to 30 hours per week for up to three months. DSP interns will work alongside a qualified DSP in various settings performing a variety of functions. Regional centers are required to refer service providers interested in participating to the Department.

**Regional Center Family Fees**

AB 162 Section 6, 9, 13, 14, 15, and 16: Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 4783 and 4785 were amended to entirely repeal the Family Cost Participation Program and Annual Family Program Fee, effective July 1, 2024.

*Implementation:* From March 2020 to June 2024, the Family Cost Participation Program and Annual Family Program Fee were suspended. As of July 1, 2024, both of these programs were repealed. Regional centers must not collect revenues for either program on or after July 1, 2024.

Sincerely,

*Original Signed by:*

MICHI A. GATES, Ph.D.  
Chief Deputy Director

cc: Regional Center Administrators  
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services  
Regional Center Community Services Directors  
Association of Regional Center Agencies  
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