

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 320, MS 3-9
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TDD 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)
(916) 654-1958



DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2012

TO: REGIONAL CENTER DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: STATEWIDE SPECIALIZED RESOURCE SERVICES

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide information on the recently enacted Trailer Bill (TBL), AB 1472 (Chapter 25, Statutes of 2012), that relates to the Statewide Specialized Resource Services (SSRS). This effort is to reduce California's reliance on developmental centers, mental health facilities that are ineligible for federal financial participation, and out-of-state placements.

AB 1472 directs the Department of Developmental Services (Department) to develop the SSRS to track the availability of specialized resources, coordinate the need for specialty services and supports, and identify, subject to federal reimbursement, developmental center services that can be made available to consumers residing in the community when no other community resource has been identified. Regional centers are required to provide to the Department the information regarding all specialized resources developed with Community Placement Plan (CPP) funds and to make these resources available to other regional centers. In accordance with statute, regional centers provided all required CPP resource information by September 1, 2012. The Department appreciates the regional centers' efforts in working toward the development of the SSRS.

As required by statute, the SSRS will be operational by October 1, 2012. It is the Department's goal to continue working in collaboration with regional centers to ensure the SSRS is a valuable, ongoing resource for regional centers in meeting individual consumer's unique service needs.

Accessing SSRS

When a regional center has exhausted its local resources in meeting the needs of a consumer with challenging service needs, the SSRS may be accessed by emailing the SSRS section at the Department at ssrs@dds.ca.gov or by calling (916) 651-6309 and requesting to speak with an SSRS representative.

"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"

Necessary Consumer Information

When accessing the Department's SSRS team for assistance, please be prepared to provide the following information:

- a. Consumer name, UCI number & date of birth
- b. Primary and secondary diagnoses
- c. Behavioral challenges and service needs (if applicable)
- d. Medical/health conditions (if applicable)
- e. Involvement of other entities (e.g., RRDP, court system, social services, Disability Rights California, etc.)
- f. Summary of the history of regional center services provided and attempts to address the consumer's needs (e.g., placement history, crisis services, etc.)
- g. IPP Team recommendations
- h. Notable factors (e.g. family involvement, substance abuse, etc.)
- i. Comprehensive assessment (if applicable)

Process Clarification

Department staff will work with the inquiring regional center to obtain all relevant information and conduct a search of the data made available by all regional centers. Department staff will in turn provide the inquiring regional center with potential resources to meet a consumer's unique needs. Regional centers are responsible for evaluating the potential resources, making additional inquiries as needed, and contacting the vendoring regional center to determine if a particular resource will meet the presenting needs of the consumer in need of specialized services. Department staff will provide a summary of the available services and the contact information for the vendoring regional center(s).

Maintenance of Current Specialized Resources Information

The resources in the SSRS database must be kept current to maximize its usefulness to regional centers and consumers. Department staff will provide each regional center with a listing of their specialized resources on a monthly basis. Regional centers will need to review the data and report to the Department all changes in specialized vendor services.

Regional Center Directors
September 26, 2012
Page three

Changes to be reported include, but are not limited to the:

- Development of a new specialized resource;
- Vacancy status change of a specialized service vendor;
- Services provided by or the expertise of a vendor; and
- Regional center contact(s) for SSRS.

Reporting Requirements

AB 1472 specifies numerous reporting requirements, including regional-specific data, regarding the efforts to serve consumers with challenging service needs. The TBL requires regional centers to report annually, commencing with the March 1, 2013, deadline:

- 1) Information on alternative community services and supports provided to those consumers who were able to remain in the community following assessments by the Regional Resource Development Projects.
- 2) The unmet service needs that resulted in any consumers being admitted to Fairview Developmental Center.
- 3) The use of facilities with delayed egress and secure perimeters. The information to be reported includes number of admissions, reasons for admissions, and lengths of stay of consumers placed in these facilities.

The Department will survey regional centers for this information in subsequent correspondence.

We appreciate your assistance in establishing the SSRS to meet the unique service needs of individual consumers. As we move forward, the Department will continue to evaluate and refine the SSRS processes and assistance to regional centers. If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Brian Winfield at (916) 654-1569, or by email at brian.winfield@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Brian Winfield for

NANCY BARGMANN
Deputy Director
Community Services Division

cc: See next page

Regional Center Directors
September 26, 2012
Page four

cc: Regional Center Chief Counselors
Eileen Richey, ARCA
Mark Hutchinson, DDS