
AGENDA ITEM: Overview of Senate Bill 1136 (Steinberg): Mental Health Services Act

ENCLOSURES: • SB 1136 (Steinberg) Mental Health Services Act Fact Sheet

OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM: A Power Point presentation will be available at the meeting.

Issue

Diane Van Maren, Consultant to California State Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, will provide an overview of the Senator’s legislation amending the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). MHSOAC Executive Director Sherri Gauger will discuss the implications for the Commission.

Background

Beginning in 2011, a number of changes to the administration of the MHSA have either been proposed or occurred. These changes are happening within the context of restructuring the larger public mental health system at both the state and local levels. In May 2011, the MHSOAC reviewed amendments to the MHSA made by Assembly Bill (AB) 100 and actions for operationalizing this legislation. In March 2012, the Commission received an overview of the MHSA changes the Governor sought in his 2012-13 budget proposal.

President pro Tem Steinberg introduced Senate Bill (SB) 1136 to clarify the MHSA in light of the issues left unresolved by AB 100. Also, SB 1136 is intended to be in lieu of the MHSA-related provisions of the Governor’s budget trailer bill language.

According to the author’s fact sheet, SB 1136 seeks to:

- Strengthen the framework for Innovative Programs and Prevention and Early Intervention Projects;
- Invigorate the role of the independent MHSOAC;
- Refresh the Integrated three-year plan for local communities;
- Continue the State and county partnership through performance contracting;
- Establish a partnership for designing a strong, outcome-focused evaluation;
- Reflect the new responsibilities of State departments; and
- Clarify workforce development processes and the five-year plan.

If enacted, the author believes the changes will provide for local accountability and necessary State oversight of key programmatic and fiscal components of the MHSA to ensure a balanced approach for expenditure of the funds and to ensure a focus on consumer empowerment in designing services.