



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER

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DATE: August 24, 2009

TO: Service Providers of Behavior Management, Activity Center and Adult Development Center Adult Day Programs, Community Integration Training Programs and Community Activities Support Services Programs

FROM: Frances Jacobs, Manager of Community Services Department

RE: Legislative Changes Impacting Services/Supports – **Alternative Customized Program Component** also referred to as **Custom Endeavors Options (CEO)**

Vendors of the above-referenced services will likely be affected by Trailer Bill Language (TBL) ABX4 9, Chapter 9, Statutes of 2009, that was enacted July 28, 2009 and effective immediately.

Please refer to TBL Section 22, Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4688.2 which was added to require, effective July 1, 2009, vendors of the aforementioned programs to “offer an alternative customized program component with an appropriate staffing component to meet individualized consumer needs”. Funding by regional centers for the customized program is based on the vendor’s existing rate for the hours of the component provided. Total hours of service for this component shall range between 20 and 80 hours per month, per person, depending on the support needs of the individual. Service providers shall offer the program within the vendored capacity, as reflected in its program design or licensed capacity. Service providers shall offer the alternative customized component to individuals with developmental disabilities who want a program focused on their individualized needs and interests to develop and maintain employment or volunteer activities in lieu of their current program.

Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center (ELARC) has reviewed this trailer bill language and believes that in relation to the above noted categories vendors assigned the following service codes by ELARC may be impacted by this change: Behavior Management (515); Activity Center (505); Adult Development Center (510); Community Integration (055); and, Community Activities Support Services (063). The regional center will be reviewing cases to determine if individuals are interested in this component and ascertain whether providers are offering services that meet the condition as described above. Providers identified non-compliant as a result will be issued CAPs (Corrective Action Plans).

Though service codes were created to categorize the types of services that a regional center may purchase as precisely as possible, the precise nature of the service and how it is used varies from vendor to vendor and regional center to regional center. Consequently, determination of how a particular service is coded is made on a case-by-case basis to determine whether it meets the criteria of TBL. Though the regional center will make the determination, we encourage all vendors to become familiar with the trailer bill language by logging on to the DDS website at www.dds.ca.gov for a summary of the budget reductions. Additionally, we urge you to log on to www.leginfo.ca.gov for a complete review of the trailer bill language. Only by thoroughly understanding the changes in the law can you decide on a course of action to take.

In the next few weeks ELARC will communicate with the above referenced service providers about the implementation of this component. Please make sure we have the current contact information for your organization. Submit your current contact information (name, title, email address, fax line number) to the attention of Pearl Ramirez, Community Services Department. She can be reached at pramirez@elarc.org or (626) 299-4793.

The regional center appreciates the services that you provide and the work that you do, and we hope that we will be able to continue to be partners in supporting people with developmental disabilities.

Finally, the regional center requests to be able to have a dialogue with you before you take any action to terminate services or to notify consumers that you intend to terminate services. Please contact Frances Jacobs, Manager of Community Services Department at (626) 299-4730 regarding this or if you have any questions or would like additional information.

cc: Gloria Wong, Executive Director
Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services
Patricia Alvarez, Chief of Administrative Services
Martin Cogan, Supervisor of Community Services Unit
Tammy Bachrach, Chair of Vendor Advisory Committee
vendor file