



Agenda Date: 9/19/2006
Agenda Placement: 10A

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Britt Ferguson for Nancy Watt - County Executive Officer
County Executive Office
REPORT BY: Andrew Carey, Management Analyst, 253-4477
SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 1288, Medi-Cal Minors Drug and Alcohol Treatment.

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign a letter in support of Senate Bill (SB) 1288, Medi-Cal Minors Drug and Alcohol Treatment. (Unanimous vote of the Board members present required)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SB 1288 has been enrolled by the State Legislature and sent to Governor Schwarzenegger for his signature. The provisions of SB 1288, which are consistent with the 2006 Napa County Legislative Platform, expand the scope of services of the California's Drug Medi-Cal program for youths and meet two of the goals identified in the County's Legislative Platform - providing additional funding for youth services and providing coverage for residential treatment services. Under SB 1288, county welfare departments would not be responsible for the costs of board and care related to providing residential drug and alcohol treatment services for eligible youths.

The Napa County Legislative Subcommittee has not reviewed SB 1288 because the bill moved quickly through the legislature in the final days of the legislative session, which concluded on August 31, 2006. However, because the provisions of SB 1288 are consistent with the 2006 Napa County Legislative Platform, SB 1288 is being brought before the Board of Supervisors with a staff recommendation to authorize the Chair to sign a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger urging him to sign the bill. The California State Association of Counties has endorsed SB 1288, as have the Counties of Los Angeles, Marin, Sacramento, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Shasta, and Solano as well as a number of cities and county probation departments.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the California Department of Health Services. Under existing law, qualified low-income persons receive health care benefits. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid provisions. Under the Medi-Cal Drug Treatment Program (Drug Medi-Cal), counties or treatment programs enter into agreements with the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs for the provision of various drug treatment services to Medi-Cal recipients. The Drug Medi-Cal program, for which the state receives federal matching funds, does not, however, cover residential drug treatment services, unless the youth is pregnant and/or parenting. Outpatient services currently covered by Drug Medi-Cal are restricted to certain types of specific encounters and do not include case management, general individual counseling, family counseling, or aftercare.

SB 1288 would require that residential drug and alcohol treatment services be covered benefits under the Medi-Cal Drug Treatment Program for persons 12 to 20 years of age. The bill also expands covered outpatient services to include additional activities such as case management and family counseling. It requires the California Department of Health Services to use its best efforts to obtain federal approval of a Medicaid state plan amendment providing for federal financial participation with respect to these services. However, SB 1288 requires the services to be covered under the Medi-Cal program only if federal financial participation is available. The bill further provides that county welfare departments shall not be responsible for the costs of board and care related to the provision of residential drug and alcohol treatment services for eligible youths.

The provisions of SB 1288 are consistent with the 2006 Napa County Legislative Platform, which identifies the problem of a funding shortfall for Drug Medi-Cal substance abuse treatment programs. SB 1288 expands the scope of services of the Drug Medi-Cal program for youths and thereby meets two goals identified in the County's Legislative Platform - providing an opportunity for acquiring additional funding for youth substance abuse services and providing coverage for residential treatment services for eligible youths. If signed by the Governor, SB 1288 will become effective on January 1, 2007.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A . Letter of Support
- B . SB 1288

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Andrew Carey