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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

August 28, 2024

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: UPDATES TO WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE, SECTION 4688.22: SOCIAL RECREATION SERVICES, CAMPING SERVICES AND NONMEDICAL THERAPIES

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide information and guidance related to Developmental Services Budget Trailer Bill, Assembly Bill (AB) 162 (Chapter 47, Statutes of 2024), section 11, which amended Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code, section 4688.22 adding requirements for regional centers and the Department of Developmental Services (Department) related to social recreation services, camping services, and nonmedical therapies.

Regional Center Point of Contact

W&I Code section 4688.22(c)(2)(A) requires regional centers by October 1, 2024, to designate one or more employees to serve as a point of contact for individuals, families, caregivers, and community members regarding access to social recreation services, camping services, and nonmedical therapies, and any policies, procedures, or written directives related to these services. Regional centers shall provide the Department with the name(s) and contact information of their designee(s) by October 1, 2024, by emailing this information to oco@dds.ca.gov. Ongoing the assigned Primary Regional Center Liaison during the months of January and July will request each regional center update this information.

Availability and Expediting Vendorization Procedures

W&I Code section 4688.22(c)(2)(B) requires regional centers by January 1, 2025, to adopt procedures aimed at increasing the availability of vendors and expediting vendorization. These efforts shall include procedures that enable social recreation services, camping services and nonmedical therapies, to be funded through participant-directed services. Payments for these services shall be aligned with typical processes used by local businesses or community resources. Regional centers should reference the November 3, 2023 Department directive which provided a vendor checklist to assist with expediting the vendorization of social recreational, camping, and nonmedical therapy providers.

Training and Website Posting

W&I Code section 4688.22(f)(1)(A) and (B) requires regional centers by March 1, 2025, to have staff, including supervisors, program managers, appeals hearing specialists and officers, and employees who are involved in developing and implementing purchase-of-service policies, complete training about social recreation services, camping services,

and nonmedical therapies. The training curriculum shall include, at a minimum, statutes, directives, and policies related to social recreation services, camping services, and nonmedical therapies.

Additionally, regional centers must make the training curriculum, materials, or other information utilized as part of the training, along with the dates the training was provided to regional center staff, available on the regional center's internet website. Website postings must be accessible to the community.

If you have any questions about this correspondence, contact your Primary Regional Center Liaison or the Office of Community Operations at oco@dds.ca.gov or (833) 421-0061.

Sincerely,



ERNIE CRUZ
Deputy Director
Community services Division

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