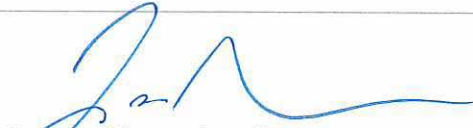


MEMORANDUM

DATE	April 9, 2017
TO	Board of Psychology
FROM	 Jason Glasspiegel Central Services Coordinator
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #4 (b)(1)(B)(17) – AB 620 (Holden) Prisoners: Trauma Focused Programming

Background:

This bill would require the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to provide, upon request by a qualified inmate, a meaningful opportunity for the successful release of a qualified inmate by providing effective trauma focused programming by a clinical social worker, psychologist, violence peer counselor, as specified, or other qualified professional during the 5 years preceding the qualified inmates parole hearing date. If the state prison does not have one of the aforementioned professionals available to provide trauma focused programming to a qualified inmate, the department shall contract with a nonprofit organization that meets specified requirements to provide this service. The bill defines "meaningful opportunity" as access to therapy to address traumatic experiences that lead to substance abuse, criminal behavior, and violent actions. The bill defines a "qualified inmate" as an inmate who was convicted of a controlling offense committed before he or she attained 25 years of age and who is at a moderate to high risk for trauma. Finally, the bill would authorize the board of parole hearings to consider a qualified inmate's participation in and completion of trauma focused programming as a performance milestone for purposes of credit reductions from the inmate's term of confinement.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Status: 03/21/2017 Passed Assembly Committee on Public Safety, re-referred to Committee on Appropriations

Votes: 03/21/2017 Assembly Committee on Public Safety (6-1-0)

Action Requested:

No action is required at this time. Staff will continue to watch AB 620 (Holden) due to the potential for increased access to mental health services for inmates.

Attachment A: AB 620 (Holden) Text



AB-620 Prisoners: trauma focused programming. (2017-2018)

SECTION 1. Section 3055 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

3055. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that the design and activities of an effective trauma focused program, for purposes of this section, reflect all of the following values:

- (1) Restorative justice, reconciliation, and accountability principles.
- (2) Enhanced interactional communication skills and interpersonal relations.
- (3) Self-efficacy and empowerment.
- (4) Trauma healing approaches and methods.
- (5) Eliminating or reducing traumatic symptoms and triggers.
- (6) Creating a safe environment.

(b) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Meaningful opportunity" means all of the following are available, if needed, to the qualified inmate:

(A) Access to trauma-focused parole assistance during the five years preceding the qualified inmate's parole hearing date.

(B) Access to trauma therapy that seeks to heal and rehabilitate responses to trauma that are often related to substance abuse, criminal behavior, and violent actions.

(C) Access to activities, information, and tools that can be practiced by the qualified inmate in an individual or community setting as a form of continuing care for traumatic experiences.

(2) "Qualified inmate" means an inmate who was convicted of a controlling offense committed before he or she attained 25 years of age and who is at a moderate to high risk for trauma.

(3) "Trauma" means emotional distress caused by a damaging event or repetitive events that exceeds an individual's ability to cope with, or integrate emotions from, the experience causing the emotional distress, which may lead to destructive symptoms and behavior.

(4) "Trauma focused program" means programming that includes all of the following:

(A) Access to and information about trauma-specific therapy that helps a qualified inmate manage the effects of trauma exposure.

(B) Therapy that increases understanding of how and why trauma affects the qualified inmate and ways to minimize the impact.

(C) Mental health care that provides tools for coping and dealing with trauma.

(D) Screening and assessment tools that help identify a qualified inmate experiencing the effects of trauma.

(E) Utilization of peer review best practices and an expanded focus on trauma informed and trauma-specific behavioral health supports.

(c) (1) The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shall provide a meaningful opportunity for successful release for a qualified inmate by offering him or her information about and access to effective trauma focused programming by a clinical social worker, psychologist, violence peer counselor as defined in paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 13957.9 of the Government Code, or any other qualified professional, as determined by

the department. The department shall, upon a qualified inmate's request, provide him or her with access to trauma focused programming during the five years preceding his or her parole hearing date.

(2) The effective trauma focused programming shall be a peer reviewed program that represents best practices for that program.

(3) The department shall provide information on trauma, trauma informed care, and the trauma focused programming to a qualified inmate at his or her parole consultation.

(d) A clinical diagnosis is not required for access to the trauma focused program, as defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (b).

(e) If the state prison does not have a clinical social worker, psychologist, violence peer counselor as defined in paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 13957.9 of the Government Code, or other qualified professional to provide trauma focused programming to a qualified inmate, the department shall contract with a nonprofit organization to provide this service. A nonprofit organization shall comply with all of the following requirements to be eligible for a contract to provide trauma focused programming:

(1) The nonprofit organization shall have training in trauma informed practices and in providing trauma focused programming to individuals with trauma.

(2) The nonprofit organization shall have an application process for volunteers.

(3) The nonprofit organization shall provide a psychologist who is an accredited marriage and family therapist (MFT) to supervise volunteers.

(4) The nonprofit organization shall have a credit reduction program under the department for performance milestones or any program recognized as a "best practice" for prisons.

(5) The nonprofit organization shall meet all other requirements for contracted nonprofit organizations and services required by department policy.

(f) The trauma focused programming described in this section is an expansion of rehabilitative programming offered to inmates and is not intended to offset or displace any current or future wait list of individuals who do not meet the criteria of a qualified inmate as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b).

(g) The Board of Parole Hearings may consider the qualified inmate's participation in and completion of trauma focused programming as a performance milestone for purposes of credit reductions from the qualified inmate's term of confinement.