


MEMORANDUM

DATE	August 30, 2017
TO	Board of Psychology
FROM	 Konnor Leitzell Central Services Student Assistant
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #16(b)(2)(Q) – AB 501 (Ridley-Thomas) Mental Health: Community Care Facilities

Background:

This bill would authorize the State Department of Social Services (DSS) to, no later than January 1, 2019, and contingent upon an appropriation in the annual Budget Act for these purposes, license a short-term residential therapeutic program operating as a children's crisis residential program, and would require the department to regulate those programs. The bill would require the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), in consultation with DSS and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, among others, to provide guidance to counties for the provision of children's crisis residential services, including funding for children who are Medi-Cal beneficiaries and who are admitted to a children's crisis residential program. By expanding the types of facilities that are regulated as a community care facility, this bill would expand the scope of an existing crime, thus creating a state-mandated local program.

This bill would authorize a short-term residential therapeutic program that is operating as a children's crisis residential program to accept for admission any child who meets specified requirements, including that the child has a serious behavioral health disorder and is referred by a parent or guardian, physician, or licensed mental health professional, or by the representative of a public or private entity that has the right to make these decisions on behalf of a child who is experiencing a mental health crisis.

The bill would require the DHCS, in consultation with certain stakeholders including DSS, to establish program standards and procedures for a children's crisis residential mental health program approval, and would require the children's crisis residential mental health program approval to be a condition of continued licensure for a short-term residential therapeutic program operating as a children's crisis residential program.

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Status: 8/21/2017 Referred to Suspense File.

Votes: 8/21/2017 Senate Committee on Appropriations (7-0-0)

7/12/2017 Senate Committee on Health (8-0-1)
6/27/17 Senate Committee on Human Services (5-0-0)
5/31/2017 Assembly Floor (75-0-5)
5/26/2017 Assembly Committee on Appropriations (17-0-0)
4/25/2017 Assembly Committee on Human Services (7-0-0)
4/4/2017 Assembly Committee on Health (15-0-0)

Action Requested:

No action is required at this time. Staff will continue to watch AB 501 (Ridley-Thomas) due to its potential impact on access to mental health services for children experiencing serious mental health crises.