

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2174 (Gallagher)

As Amended August 17, 2020

Majority vote

SUMMARY:

Permits the Counties of Yuba and Sutter to establish a joint homeless adult and family multidisciplinary personnel team (MDT) in order to facilitate the expedited identification, assessment, and linkage of homeless individuals to housing and supportive services.

The Senate Amendments:

- 1) Add language to Legislative findings and declarations that expands the scope of addressing homelessness to include the provision of services to families who are homeless.
- 2) Add a co-author.

COMMENTS:

Homelessness in California: According to the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count conducted by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), on a single night in January 2019, 151,278 people experienced homelessness in California, which represents a 16% increase in homelessness since January 2018. Nationwide, 396,045 individuals were experiencing homelessness in January 2019; California, therefore, accounts for 33% of the nation's homeless population. The PIT count also found that, in January 2019, California's homeless population included 10,989 veterans, 39,275 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, 11,993 unaccompanied youth, and 22,501 families with children.

Multidisciplinary personnel teams: AB 1049 (Bader), Chapter 353, Statutes of 1987, permitted the use of MDTs to allow for a coordinated interagency response to elder and child abuse cases. Prior to that, MDTs were a relatively new concept and had primarily existed as pilot projects administered at the county level. Specifically, child abuse MDTs were formed and operated at the county level and were enabled to share certain confidential information among team members in order to prevent, identify, and treat child abuse. MDTs also serve to facilitate coordination among the different participating agencies and entities to ensure decisions are made through a team decision-making process.

In 2017, AB 210 (Santiago), Chapter 544, Statutes of 2017, allowed counties to develop homeless adult and family MDTs in order to identify and assess individuals experiencing homelessness and link them to housing and supportive services. AB 210 also allowed certain entities, including mental health service providers, law enforcement, schools, and social services representatives, to participate in homeless adult and family MDTs. In 2019, AB 728 (Santiago), Chapter 337, Statutes of 2019, established, until January 1, 2025, a pilot program in the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Clara, and Ventura, to allow homeless adult and family MDTs established in these counties to have the goal of facilitating expedited identification, assessment, and linkage of individuals at risk of homelessness to housing and supportive services, and the goal of facilitating the expedited prevention of homelessness for those individuals.

Need for this bill: The provisions of this bill seek to build upon previous efforts to address California's homelessness crisis, including the enactment of AB 210 and AB 728, which allowed counties to form homeless adult and family MDTs in order to link individuals who are homeless, or who are at risk of homelessness, to housing and supportive services. Specifically, this bill would permit the Counties of Yuba and Sutter to establish a joint homeless adult and family MDT to allow MDT members to share certain confidential information in order to quickly link people experiencing homelessness with housing and supportive services.

According to the Author:

"Unfortunately, current law limits the utilization of homeless MDTs to providers within a single county. This can be problematic for counties that wish to better coordinate services across county lines for their homeless populations, like Yuba and Sutter counties. Coordination makes a lot of sense for these counties, as they share homeless service providers, have a bi-county health department, and created a bi-county homeless consortium. However, under current law, MDTs may only be formed within a single county. This hinders current efforts to provide housing and supportive services to homeless individuals, which are especially critical to containing COVID-19.

"Authorizing Yuba and Sutter counties to establish a joint MDT would help with the identification, assessment, and linkage of homeless individuals to housing and supportive services. This will create cost savings and improve government efficiency by preventing duplicative efforts through better coordination, while enhancing the continuity of care for homeless individuals and families."

Arguments in Support:

The Yuba County Board of Supervisors writes, "Yuba County, Sutter County, and all cities within the two counties created the Bi-County Homeless Consortium to jointly address homelessness and is exploring the idea of creating a bi-county homeless engagement team which would consist of departments from each of the counties and the cities within the counties. [This bill] would allow Yuba and Sutter Counties to work together to provide meaningful social services to homeless individuals in the most efficient manner."

Arguments in Opposition:

The American Civil Liberties Union of California writes, "While existing law does establish some protocol for the sharing of confidential information among MDTs and provider agencies, neither this protocol nor [this bill] ensures that individuals' confidential information is not shared without their consent. The lack of any opt-in or opt-out mechanisms for having an individuals' confidential information shared by MDTs or provider agencies represents a very real privacy risk for that individual. MDTs in other contexts require team members obtain informed, written, reasonably time-limited consent from an individual before disclosing to the MDT that individuals' confidential information."

FISCAL COMMENTS:

This bill has been keyed non-fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

VOTES:

ASM HUMAN SERVICES: 8-0-0

YES: Reyes, Mathis, Arambula, Flora, Friedman, Gipson, Maienschein, Mark Stone

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0-2

YES: Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Bigelow, Bloom, Boerner Horvath, Bonta, Brough, Burke, Calderon, Carrillo, Cervantes, Chau, Chen, Chiu, Choi, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Cunningham, Megan Dahle, Daly, Diep, Eggman, Flora, Fong, Frazier, Friedman, Gabriel, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson, Gloria, Gonzalez, Gray, Grayson, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Kamlager, Kiley, Lackey, Levine, Limón, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Nazarian, O'Donnell, Obernolte, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Salas, Santiago, Smith, Mark Stone, Ting, Voepel, Waldron, Weber, Wicks, Wood, Rendon

ABS, ABST OR NV: Muratsuchi, Quirk

UPDATED:

VERSION: August 17, 2020

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FN: 0003217