SUMMARY

AB 1610 will reduce existing funding disparities for developmental services.

BACKGROUND

In 2011, a Los Angeles Times series reported significant disparities in the funding of developmental services based on race, ethnicity, income level and socio-economic community. The Senate Select Committee on Autism and Related Disorders held an informational meeting on April 30, 2012 on this issue and several recommendations came from that hearing, many of which remain outstanding. On March 14, 2017, the Senate Human Services Committee held another informational hearing on disparities and found that the purchase of services gap between Latinos and Whites served by the regional centers has only been reduced by 1/10 of a percent point in five years, with Latinos receiving 45.9% of what Whites receive.

THIS BILL

- Repeal statutes enacted in 2009 which suspended certain services such as non-medical therapies and restricted respite services authorizations;
- Restore respite services to families served in the Early Intervention Services program;
- Appoint a task force to create a budget and allocation methodology for purchases of services based on client needs;
- Require regional centers to provide information in a specific culturally and linguistically manner;
- Require regional centers to provide written information before the initial Individual Program Plan (IPP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting and at least annually before these meetings, regarding services provided by the regional center, the regional centers’ appeals, complaint and mediation processes, and the exceptions or exemptions which must be met in order to access certain services;
- Require regional centers to provide, at the end of the IPP/IFSP meeting, a list of services agreed upon with anticipated start dates and those services for which final agreement still needs to be made;
- Require regional centers to provide funding for medical and dental services while those services are being pursued or appealed with a generic agency;
- Require regional centers to facilitate parent participation in providing behavioral intervention services;
- Prohibit regional centers from denying, delaying or reducing behavioral intervention services due to the lack of parent participation.

SUPPORT

- Public Counsel (Sponsor)
- Special Needs Network (Sponsor)
- Center for Autism & Related Disorders (CARD)