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**AB-1215 Mental Health Services Act: innovative programs: research.** (2017-2018)

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Date Published: 08/28/2018 09:00 PM

**Assembly Bill No. 1215**

**CHAPTER 227**

An act to amend Section 5830 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental health.

[ Approved by Governor August 28, 2018. Filed with Secretary of State August 28, 2018. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 1215, Weber. Mental Health Services Act: innovative programs: research.

Existing law, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), an initiative measure enacted by the voters as Proposition 63 at the November 2, 2004, statewide general election, establishes the continuously appropriated Mental Health Services Fund to fund various county mental health programs. Existing law establishes the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission to oversee various parts of the act, as specified. Existing law authorizes the act to be amended by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of the Legislature if the amendments are consistent with, and further the intent of, the act. Existing law authorizes the Legislature to add provisions to clarify procedures and terms of the act by majority vote.

Existing law requires county mental health programs to develop plans for innovative programs, to be funded as provided, and requires the innovative programs to have specified purposes, including increasing access to services and underserved groups, increasing the quality of services, and promoting interagency collaboration. Existing law requires all projects included in the innovative program portion of a county plan to meet specified requirements. Existing law provides that an innovative project may affect virtually any aspect of mental health practices or assess a new or changed application of a promising approach to solving persistent, seemingly intractable mental health challenges, including, but not limited to, education and training for service providers, advocacy, services and interventions, or research, among other things. Existing law requires county mental health programs to expend funds for their innovation programs upon approval by the commission.

Existing law, the California Blueprint for Research to Advance Innovations in Neuroscience (Cal-BRAIN) Act of 2014, requests the Regents of the University of California to establish the Cal-BRAIN program to leverage California's research assets and the federal Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative's funding opportunities to accelerate the development of brain mapping techniques to achieve certain goals, including, among others, the development of a dynamic map of the human brain that provides researchers, physicians, and engineers with the knowledge necessary to develop new treatments and technologies that will improve lives and reduce the costs of providing health care.

This bill would, if research is chosen for an innovative project, require a county mental health program to consider, but not require a county to implement, research of the brain and its physical and biochemical processes that may have broad applications, but that have specific potential for understanding, treating, and managing mental illness, including, but not limited to, research through the Cal-BRAIN program or other collaborative, public-private initiatives designed to map the dynamics of neuron activity.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: no Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1.** Section 5830 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

**5830.** County mental health programs shall develop plans for innovative programs to be funded pursuant to paragraph (6) of subdivision (a) of Section 5892.

(a) The innovative programs shall have the following purposes:

- (1) To increase access to underserved groups.
- (2) To increase the quality of services, including better outcomes.
- (3) To promote interagency collaboration.
- (4) To increase access to services, including, but not limited to, services provided through permanent supportive housing.

(b) All projects included in the innovative program portion of the county plan shall meet the following requirements:

(1) Address one of the following purposes as its primary purpose:

- (A) Increase access to underserved groups, which may include providing access through the provision of permanent supportive housing.
- (B) Increase the quality of services, including measurable outcomes.
- (C) Promote interagency and community collaboration.
- (D) Increase access to services, which may include providing access through the provision of permanent supportive housing.

(2) Support innovative approaches by doing one of the following:

- (A) Introducing new mental health practices or approaches, including, but not limited to, prevention and early intervention.
- (B) Making a change to an existing mental health practice or approach, including, but not limited to, adaptation for a new setting or community.
- (C) Introducing a new application to the mental health system of a promising community-driven practice or an approach that has been successful in nonmental health contexts or settings.
- (D) Participating in a housing program designed to stabilize a person's living situation while also providing supportive services on site.

(c) An innovative project may affect virtually any aspect of mental health practices or assess a new or changed application of a promising approach to solving persistent, seemingly intractable mental health challenges, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

- (1) Administrative, governance, and organizational practices, processes, or procedures.
- (2) Advocacy.
- (3) Education and training for service providers, including nontraditional mental health practitioners.
- (4) Outreach, capacity building, and community development.
- (5) System development.
- (6) Public education efforts.
- (7) Research. If research is chosen for an innovative project, the county mental health program shall consider, but is not required to implement, research of the brain and its physical and biochemical processes that may have broad applications, but that have specific potential for understanding, treating, and managing mental illness, including, but not limited to, research through the Cal-BRAIN program pursuant to Section 92986 of the Education Code or other collaborative, public-private initiatives designed to map the dynamics of neuron activity.
- (8) Services and interventions, including prevention, early intervention, and treatment.

(9) Permanent supportive housing development.

(d) If an innovative project has proven to be successful and a county chooses to continue it, the project workplan shall transition to another category of funding as appropriate.

(e) County mental health programs shall expend funds for their innovation programs upon approval by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.