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AB-308 Mobile crisis teams or units: procedures. (2025-2026)

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AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 2025

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2025–2026 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 308

Introduced by Assembly Member Ramos

January 23, 2025

An act to add Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 8300) to Division 8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to behavioral health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 308, as amended, Ramos. Mobile crisis teams or units: procedures.

Existing law sets forth various provisions relating to mobile crisis teams, including with regard to behavioral health crisis services under the Miles Hall Lifeline and Suicide Prevention Act, involuntary commitment under the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, and community-based mobile crisis intervention services through a Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery system under the Medi-Cal program. Existing law sets forth related provisions for mobile crisis units.

Existing law requires a regional center, which serves individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, to implement an emergency response system for, among other groups, consumers who receive mobile crisis services. Existing law requires a regional center and a county mental health agency to develop a general plan for crisis intervention for persons served by both systems.

Existing law establishes an advisory council for purposes of developing recommendations for improving outcomes of interactions between law enforcement and people with intellectual or developmental disabilities or with mental health conditions.

This bill, in the case of a county that operates, or that contracts for the operation of, a mobile crisis team or unit, would authorize the county behavioral health director to develop procedures for the mobile crisis team or unit that include the handling of an emergency situation, or a crisis incident, involving an individual with an intellectual or developmental disability or an individual with a behavioral health condition.

~~The bill would require the procedures, if developed, to address certain items, including deescalation techniques. The bill would authorize the director to develop training, in conjunction with law enforcement, for those procedures.~~

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 8300) is added to Division 8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

CHAPTER 10. County Behavioral Health Mobile Crisis Procedures

8300. For purposes of this chapter, "intellectual or developmental disability" has the same meaning as "developmental disability" in Section 4512.

8301. ~~(a)~~ In the case of a county that operates, or that contracts for the operation of, a mobile crisis team or a mobile crisis unit, the county behavioral health director may develop procedures for the mobile crisis team or unit that include the handling of an emergency situation, or a crisis incident, involving an individual with an intellectual or developmental disability, including, but not limited to, autism, or involving an individual with a behavioral health condition.

~~(b) If procedures are developed pursuant to subdivision (a), they shall address all of the following:~~

~~(1) Deescalation techniques for an encounter with an individual described in subdivision (a) that take into account the individual's specific circumstances, in order to preserve their safety and well-being.~~

~~(2) The appropriate amount of force to use on the individual, if necessary.~~

~~(3) Guidance and best practices regarding transportation of the individual to their designated health facility or care facility, if applicable.~~

~~(c)(1) A county behavioral health director may develop training for procedures developed pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b).~~

~~(2) If training is developed pursuant to paragraph (1), it shall be developed in conjunction with law enforcement.~~