


MEMORANDUM

DATE	July 25, 2017
TO	Board of Psychology
FROM	 Cherise Burns Central Services Manager
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #5(b)(2)(N) – AB 473 (Waldron) Mental Health: Criminal Justice: Pilot Project

Background:

This bill would require the State Department of Health Care Services, in conjunction with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and in cooperation with the University of California Criminal Justice and Health Consortium to conduct a multiyear statewide pilot project in six counties for the purpose of assisting participating counties in creating cost-effective programming and treatment for the large population of mentally ill adults in county jail systems who have co-occurring substance use disorders, utilizing eligible funds from existing programs established to address mental illness in California communities for purposes of the pilot project activities. The consortium would be responsible for administering all aspects of the pilot project and counties would be selected pursuant to a competitive application process.

The bill also would require each pilot project to implement specified practices, including screening and diagnosis, integrated treatment, and transitional case management, as prescribed. Of concern to Board staff is the bill's language on cross-training jail-based staff to recognize and assess mental illness and substance use disorders, including potential screening, diagnosis and personalized treatment plans provided by these staff.

Staff spoke to the author's office and was informed that this bill is a 2-year bill and will not be moving for the remainder of this legislative year. Staff will continue to watch the bill until it is taken up next year.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Status: 5/26/17 In committee, set first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

Votes: 4/25/2017 Assembly Committee on Health (15-0-0)
 4/18/2017 Assembly Committee on Public Safety (7-0-0)

Action Requested:

No action is required at this time. Staff will be watching AB 473 to determine if the bill would inappropriately allow unqualified individuals to perform psychological services and potentially harm those consumers with inappropriate diagnoses and treatments.