



June 8, 2013

**Public Notice of Proposal to Submit AB 637/1543 request for Waiver
on behalf of Tri-Counties Regional Center Behavioral Services Providers (620 Service Code)**

Tri-Counties Regional Center is asking the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to allow for Behavioral Services providers (Service Code 620) to continue with the relaxed standards for staff qualifications for providing services that have been part of our agreement since June 2011. TCRC and these providers re-negotiated their contract(s) and relied on the Trailer Bill Language in effect at that time.

Trailer Bill Language (AB 1472 Chapter 25, Statutes of 2012) allowed for service providers to relax standards for staff qualifications in accordance with Section 4791. This provision is sun setting as of June 30 2013. The relaxation of standards as well as a remaining 1.25% of the 4.25% payment reduction that was a part of this provision will no longer be in effect.

This proposal for a Waiver is based on AB (Assembly Bill) 637/1543. DDS provided instructions in 2001 for regional centers to submit a request for AB 637/1543. There are eight different proposal types; this request is related to "service contracts with providers."

When TCRC developed a new agreement with the Behavioral Service providers (620) in June 2011 that included flexibility of staff qualifications, TCRC and the providers made sure that this flexibility in qualifications for Direct Intervention staff and the Behavior Analyst staff would support quality services

Certain Service Providers for Behavioral Services (620) want to continue with these standards. Staff would not need to change and services would continue with consistency. The providers who are interested in continuation of the flexibility in staff qualifications would also be continuing with the 1.25% reduction in payment.

This proposal will not result in the reduction of direct services to persons or their families. In fact, the approval will result in the seamless provision of services. TCRC 620 providers have utilized this flexibility of standards to deliver high quality and consistent services.

Costs of the delivery of the service will not be impacted. If 1.25% increase is not implemented for the providers seeking the waiver, unit cost will remain neutral. In fact, savings will be realized in comparison with the full restoration of the 1.25% reimbursement reduction.

Service providers who want to participate in the waiver will do so based on agreement between the regional center and the provider that quality of services will continue to be the same

TCRC will record input from stakeholders and present this information to DDS along with the proposal.