



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Speech Therapy Assistants

Date: Monday, February 12, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Location: South Central Los Angeles Regional Center
2500 South Western Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90018
Community Meeting Room 435
4th Floor Legacy Building

The enactment of Assembly Bill 637/1543/1106 allows Regional Centers some flexibility in delivering services in certain situations. In order to implement any changes, AB637/1543/1106 requires the Regional Center to hold a public hearing to receive comments on the proposal. You are cordially invited to attend a public hearing on Monday, February 12, 2018 to review a proposal regarding the need to allow speech therapy group practices to hire and/or contract with Speech Therapy Assistants to provide therapy services to infants, toddlers and children. Written comments may also be submitted to South Central Los Angeles located at 2500 South Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018, to the attention of Kim C. Bowie, Chief of Community Services.

For further information, please contact Kim C. Bowie at (213) 744-8454 or kimb@sclarc.org.

Proposal

SCLARC is requesting approval to allow Speech Therapy Group Practices to hire and/or contract with Speech Therapy Assistants to provide therapy services to infants, toddlers and children. At a minimum, Speech Therapy Assistants must be students currently enrolled in a master's degree program in speech and language pathology. The speech pathologist would continue to conduct any necessary evaluations/assessments. She/he would also be required to provide at least monthly face-to-face supervision at the location the child is receiving services. The supervision would include observing and providing feedback related to therapy services provided by the assistants.

SCLARC is experiencing a shortage of Speech Therapists who are qualified to provide services to Regional Center and Early Start consumers. SCLARC is also experiencing an overall shortage of therapists to provide services in geographical areas located in the eastern portion of the agency's service area. A large majority of Speech Therapy Group Practices use Assistants to provide therapy services. As SCLARC finds that therapy resources for new referrals becoming scarcer, SCLARC is struggling to meet the therapy needs of the children registered with our Center. SCLARC anticipates that this trend will continue and not having this waiver will make it difficult for the Regional Center to continue to meet its consumers' service needs.

SCLARC has reviewed the general requirements attached to the implementation of AB 637/1543/1106 and feel that our proposal addresses the following requirements:

- The proposal will increase the availability of service providers who are qualified to meet the service needs of infants and toddlers
- The proposal will increase the availability of service providers who are qualified to provide therapy services to children who are not receiving services through the school system, their health care provider or another generic resource
- The proposal is cost neutral and implemented within our budget allocation
- The proposal addresses the specialized needs of our consumers
- Input, comments and suggestions are being solicited from Area Board 10, SCLARC's Consumer Services Committee, and from our stakeholder community
- A public hearing to receive comments on this proposal is scheduled for **Monday, February 12, 2018 at 5:00pm**. The hearing will be held at SCLARC, in the Community Meeting Room and will be open to the community
- Written copies of the proposal will be placed in our reception area and posted on our website. Copies will also be available at the hearing.



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Therapy Group Practices

Date: Monday, February 12, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Location: South Central Los Angeles Regional Center
2500 South Western Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90018
Community Meeting Room 435
4th Floor Legacy Building

The enactment of Assembly Bill 637/1543/1106 allows Regional Centers some flexibility in delivering services in certain situations. In order to implement any changes, AB637/1543/1106 requires the Regional Center to hold a public hearing to receive comments on the proposal.

You are cordially invited to attend a public hearing on Monday, February 12, 2018 to review a proposal regarding the need to allow therapy group practices to provide speech pathology, occupational therapy and physical therapy assessments and services to individuals located in our catchment area. Written comments may also be submitted to South Central Los Angeles located at 2500 South Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018, to the attention of Kim C. Bowie, Chief of Community Services.

For further information, please contact Kim C. Bowie at (213) 744-8454 or kimb@sclarc.org.

Proposal

SCLARC is requesting approval to allow specialists under the Service Code 116- Early Start Specialized Therapeutic Services and Service Code 115- Specialized Therapeutic Services (age 3-20) to be vendored as a “Group Practice”. Assessments and on-going services will be provided by individual therapists within the vendored group practice under a 1:1 service delivery model. The group practice service providers will have the licenses, certifications and or credentials as required by the State of California to practice in the field being offered. In addition, the providers in the group shall have a minimum of one year of experience working with infants, toddlers and/or children with developmental delays and disabilities.

SCLARC is experiencing a shortage of individual specialists that are qualified to determine Regional Center and Early Start eligibility. SCLARC is also experiencing an overall shortage of therapists to provide services in geographical areas located in the eastern portion of the agency’s designated service area. A large majority of therapists are members of group practices and are not individually vendored by choice. As SCLARC finds therapy resources for new referrals becoming scarcer, SCLARC is struggling to meet regulatory timelines for children being assessed for Early Start and Regional Center services. This waiver will enable SCLARC to do a better job at meeting our Early Start and Regional Center eligibility timelines and to provide infants, toddlers, and children with necessary therapy services in a timely manner.

SCLARC has reviewed the general requirements attached to the implementation of AB 637/1543/1106 and feel that our proposal addresses the following requirements:

- The proposal will increase the availability of service providers who are qualified to determine eligibility for infants and toddlers who are referred to Early Start Services
- The proposal will increase the availability of service providers who are qualified to provide therapy services to children who are not receiving services through the school system, their health care provider or another generic resource
- The proposal is cost neutral and will be implemented within our budget allocation
- The proposal addresses the specialized needs of our consumers, and SCLARC’s need to meet eligibility timelines

Input, comments and suggestions are being solicited from Area Board 10, SCLARC’s Consumer Services Committee, and from our stakeholder community.

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center
AB 637/1543/1106 Proposal: Speech Therapy Assistants

In order to provide timely services to infants, toddlers and children, South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC) is requesting an AB637/1543/1106 Waiver to waive the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 17, Division 2 Chapter 3 sub Chapter 7 Article 5 Section 54342(75)(A) regarding speech pathologist services.

Specifically, SCLARC is requesting approval to allow Speech Therapy Group Practices to hire and/or contract with Speech Therapy Assistants to provide therapy services to infants, toddlers and children. At a minimum, Speech Therapy Assistants must be students currently enrolled in a master's degree program in speech and language pathology. The speech pathologist would continue to conduct any necessary evaluations/assessments. She/he would also be required to provide at least monthly face-to-face supervision at the location the child is receiving services. The supervision would include observing and providing feedback related to therapy services provided by the assistants.

SCLARC is experiencing a shortage of Speech Therapists who are qualified to provide services to Regional Center and Early Start consumers. SCLARC is also experiencing an overall shortage of therapists to provide services in geographical areas located in the eastern portion of the agency's service area. A large majority of Speech Therapy Group Practices use Assistants to provide therapy services. As SCLARC finds that therapy resources for new referrals becoming scarcer, SCLARC is struggling to meet the therapy needs of the children registered with our Center. SCLARC anticipates that this trend will continue and not having this waiver will make it difficult for the Regional Center to continue to meet its consumers' service needs.

SCLARC has reviewed the general requirements attached to the implementation of AB 637/1543/1106 and feel that our proposal addresses the following requirements:

- The proposal will increase the availability of service providers who are qualified to meet the service needs of infants and toddlers
- The proposal will increase the availability of service providers who are qualified to provide therapy services to children who are not receiving services through the school system, their health care provider or another generic resource
- The proposal is cost neutral
- The proposal will be implemented within our budget allocation
- The proposal addresses the specialized needs of our consumers
- Input, comments and suggestions are being solicited from Area Board 10, SCLARC's Consumer Services Committee, and from our stakeholder community
- A public hearing to receive comments on this proposal is scheduled for **Monday, February 12, 2018 at 5:00pm**. The hearing will be held at SCLARC, in the Community Meeting Room and will be open to the community
- Written copies of the proposal will be placed in our reception area and posted on our website. Copies will also be available at the hearing.

Approval of this waiver will assist SCLARC with its efforts to recruit the additional resources necessary to help better meet the needs of consumers receiving Early Start services and have resources available in geographical areas designated as having disparities.



South Central Los Angeles Regional Center AB 637/1543/1106 Proposal: Therapy Group Practice

In order to provide timely assessments and services to infants and toddlers through the Early Start program within the 45-day timeline, South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC) is requesting an AB637/1543/1106 Waiver to waive the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 17, Division 2 Chapter 3 sub Chapter 7 Article 5 Section 57331 regarding Group Practices.

Specifically, SCLARC is requesting approval to allow specialists under the Service Code 116- Early Start Specialized Therapeutic Services and Service Code 115- Specialized Therapeutic Services (age 3-20) to be vendored as a “Group Practice”. Assessments and on-going services will be provided by individual therapists within the vendored group practice under a 1:1 service delivery model. The group practice service providers will have the licenses, certifications and or credentials as required by the State of California to practice in the field being offered. In addition, the providers in the group shall have a minimum of one year of experience working with infants, toddlers and/or children with developmental delays and disabilities.

SCLARC is experiencing a shortage of individual specialists that are qualified to determine Regional Center and Early Start eligibility. SCLARC is also experiencing an overall shortage of therapists to provide services in geographical areas located in the eastern portion of the agency’s designated service area. A large majority of therapists are members of group practices and are not individually vendored by choice. As SCLARC finds therapy resources for new referrals becoming scarcer, SCLARC is struggling to meet regulatory timelines for children being assessed for Early Start and Regional Center services. SCLARC anticipates that these trends will continue and this decline will make it difficult for the Regional Center to continue to meet its’ eligibility timelines. This waiver will enable SCLARC to do a better job at meeting our Early Start and Regional Center eligibility timelines and to provide infants, toddlers, and children with the necessary services in a timely manner.

SCLARC has reviewed the general requirements attached to the implementation of AB 637/1543/1106 and feel that our proposal addresses the following requirements:

- The proposal will increase the availability of service providers who are qualified to determine eligibility for infants and toddlers who are referred to Early Start Services
- The proposal will increase the availability of service providers who are qualified to provide therapy services to children who are not receiving services through the school system, their health care provider or another generic resource
- The proposal is cost neutral
- The proposal will be implemented within our budget allocation
- The proposal addresses the specialized needs of our intake clients and consumers, and SCLARC’s need to meet eligibility timelines
- Input, comments and suggestions are being solicited from Area Board 10, SCLARC’s Consumer Services Committee, and from our stakeholder community.

- A public hearing to receive comments on this proposal is scheduled for **Monday, February 12, 2018 at 5:00pm**. The hearing will be held at SCLARC, in the Community Meeting Room and will be open to the community
- Written copies of the proposal will be placed in our reception area and posted on our website. Copies will also be available at the hearing.

Approval of this waiver will assist SCLARC with its efforts to recruit the additional resources necessary to help better meet our Early Start eligibility timelines and have available resources in geographical areas designated as having disparities.