

Date of Hearing: April 18, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE

Ash Kalra, Chair

AB 1200 (Cervantes) – As Introduced February 17, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Aging and Disabilities Resource Connection program.

**SUMMARY:** Codifies the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) program by defining the program, outlining its purpose, and establishing standards of operations. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Establishes an Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) program to provide information to consumers and their families on available long-term services and supports (LTSS) programs, and to assist older adults, caregivers, and persons with disabilities in accessing LTSS programs at the local level.
- 2) Requires each ADRC program site provide enhanced information and referral services, and other assistance at hours that are convenient for the public including:
  - a) Provide options counseling concerning available LTSS programs and public and private benefits programs;
  - b) Provide short-term service coordination; and,
  - c) Provide transition services from hospitals to home and from skilled nursing facilities to the community.
- 3) Allows the California Department of Aging (the Department) to enter into interagency agreements with the Department of Rehabilitation and the State Department of Health Care Services for purposes of implementing the provisions of the bill. The Department, in consultation with the advisory committee, shall consider establishing ADRC program sites to cover all geographic regions of the state in order to provide services to the maximum number of consumers and families in the state.
- 4) Requires the Department to establish the Aging and Disability Resource Connection Advisory Committee as the primary adviser to the Department, the Department of Rehabilitation, and the State Department of Health Care Services in the ongoing development and implementation of the ADRC program.
- 5) The Department, in consultation with the advisory committee, shall formulate criteria for designation and approval of local ADRC program sites. Area agencies on aging and independent living centers shall be the core local partners in developing ADRC program sites, but the Department may work with other local partners in developing ADRC program sites.
- 6) The Department and the State Department of Health Care Services shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to authorize local government agencies to claim federal Medicaid reimbursement for qualified administrative activities performed.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) The Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act, establishes the California Department of Aging, and states that the mission of the department is to provide leadership to the area agencies on aging in developing systems of home and community-based services that maintain individuals in their own homes or least restrictive homelike environments.
- 2) Vests in the Department of Rehabilitation the responsibility and authority for the encouragement of the planning, development, and funding of independent living centers, which are private, nonprofit organizations that provide specified services to individuals with disabilities, in order to assist those individuals in their attempts to live fuller and freer lives outside institutions.
- 3) Establishes the Medi-Cal program, administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid program provisions.
- 4) Provides that Medi-Cal long-term services and supports, including In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS), Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) services, and certain skilled nursing facility and subacute care services, shall be covered services by a specified date under managed care health plan contracts for beneficiaries residing in counties participating in the Coordinated Care Initiative.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown.

**COMMENTS:**

California's long-term services and supports (LTSS) system is plagued by fragmentation of programs at the state, regional, and local levels. In many communities, multiple agencies administer LTSS and have complex, splintered, and often duplicative intake, assessment, and eligibility functions. This results in a lack of access to coordinated services. As a result, consumers and their families struggle to identify and access necessary home and community-based services, resulting in increased likelihood of hospitalization and institutional placements.

In 2003, the Federal Administration on Aging (AoA) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) established the ADRC initiative to streamline access to long-term services and supports (LTSS) to assist older adults, persons with disabilities, families, and caregivers. ADRCs build on the strength of existing community agencies, such as Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and Independent Living Centers (ILC), to provide a single coordinated system of information and access for all persons seeking long-term services and support. ADRC programs provide objective information, advice, counseling and assistance, and ensure that individuals are able to make informed decisions about their services.

The ADRC initiative focuses on delivering person centered planning by improving access to LTSS so that an individual can receive the right services at the right time and in the right place. Initially, CMS provided small grants to fund the development of four ADRCs in California with minimal dollars for operations. With a lack of continuous funding only two of the four are functional today. Through local efforts and resources other ARDCs have come into existence. There are currently seven in existence including the two initially funded by CMS grants. They

are located in San Diego, Riverside, Orange County, Ventura, Nevada, San Francisco, and Alameda.

Although federal and state agencies encourage local networks to collaborate on developing ADRCs, there is no statutory authority to do so.

**Arguments in Support:** The letter from the California Aging & Disability Resource Centers states, “Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) are the first place to go to get accurate, unbiased information on all aspects of life related to aging or living with a disability. ADRCs are accessible places where anyone can go for information tailored to their situation. ADRC provides information on a broad range of programs and services, helps people understand the various long term care options available to them, helps people apply for programs and benefits and serves as the access point for publicly-funded long term care.”

### **Related Legislation**

AB 614 (Limon), 2017, requires each Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to maintain an Alzheimer’s and dementia specialist to provide information, assistance, referrals, and options counseling to families. AB 614 will be heard in the Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care Committee on April 18, 2017.

### **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

#### **Support**

Agency on Aging/Area 4  
California Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee  
California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A)  
California Commission on Aging  
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC)  
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter (NASW-CA)  
Placer Independent Resource Services  
Sonoma County Area Agency on Aging  
Two individuals.

#### **Opposition**

None on file.

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