



# Department of Workforce & Benefits Administration

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# Agenda

- 1 *Assembly Bill 109 – What We Know*
- 2 *SSA- WBA Action – What We are Doing*
- 3 *Workgroup Inquiries*
- 4 *Questions*
- 5 *References*





# Public Safety Realignment Act (AB 109)

In 2011, the Public Safety Realignment Act (Assembly Bill [AB] 109) was signed into law. AB 109 transferred the responsibility of supervising specific lower-level incarcerated individuals and parolees from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to counties. Specifically, AB 109:

- ❑ Transferred the location of individuals incarcerated for lower-level offenses from state prison to local county jail.
- ❑ Transferred the responsibility for post-release supervision of individuals incarcerated for lower-level offenses from the state to the county by creating a new category of supervision called Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS);
- ❑ Shifted the responsibility for processing certain parole revocations from the state Parole Board to the local court system; and
- ❑ Shifted the responsibility for housing revoked supervision clients affected by the above changes from CDCR to county detention facilities.

In addition to transferring the responsibility of housing and supervising realigned populations from the state to the county, AB 109 also required that counties use AB 109 funding to build partnerships with local health and social service agencies and community-based services. These **partnerships aimed to facilitate the successful reentry and reintegration of AB 109 individuals** into the community and reduce the likelihood of recidivism.





# SSA – WBA Action

Alameda County Social Service Agency - Workforce and Benefits Administration updated business processes based on policy changes that impact the inmate population. Policy changes included:

- ✓ **Pre-Release Inmate Applications:** In January 2008 DHCS entered into an agreement with CDCR which facilitates the completion and submittal of Medi-Cal applications for inmates and wards of CDCR prior to their release. The intent of this agreement is to allow inmates timely access to Medi-Cal benefits upon their release if they are eligible. During this process CDCR facilities will share information with Alameda County regarding the release date for inmates and will complete and submit Medi-Cal applications to Alameda County. The County accepts the Medi-Cal applications and notifies the appropriate CDCR facility (or the ward or inmate as appropriate) of the outcome of the eligibility determination.
- ✓ **Suspension of Medi-Cal Benefits for all Inmates:** Assembly Bill 720 amended the suspension requirement in SB 1147. Medi-Cal benefits of an inmate are to be suspended, rather than terminated. AB 720 requires counties to end suspension of benefits:
  - On the day an eligible inmate is no longer an inmate of a public institution
  - One year from the date he/she becomes an inmate of a public institution, whichever is sooner; and,
  - When the individual fails to complete the Medi-Cal redetermination
  - Medi-Cal must be restored for an eligible inmate, who meets the AB 720 suspension requirements without a new application on the day the inmate is no longer considered an inmate, provided the inmate is otherwise eligible.





# SSA – WBA Action

- ✓ Medi-Cal Inmate Eligibility Program (MCIEP): The MCIEP was implemented as a result of AB 720 which took effect January 1, 2014. AB 720 authorized the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to designate the Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) – Santa Rita Jail staff, as the entity that acts on behalf of the inmate and submits applications for Medi-Cal coverage for acute inpatient hospital services provided to inmates off the grounds of the correctional facility.
  - ACSO submits Medi-Cal applications on behalf of inmates for acute inpatient hospital services provided to the inmate off the grounds of the correctional facility.
  - SSA – WBA accepts and determines MCIEP eligibility for the inmate. If the applicants has never had Medi-Cal, SSA-WBA determines regular Medi-Cal Eligibility and suspends it, activates MCIEP eligibility for off ground services.
  - Regular Medi-Cal eligibility suspension is lifted once the inmate is released assuming he/she meets the AB 720 suspension requirement and is otherwise eligible.
  - ACSO provides a weekly list of inmates who have been released from custody and have been identified on the MCIEP.
- ✓ Other Efforts: Inquiries from other departments such as Behavioral Health Care Services come to SSA-WBA requesting us to lift Medi-Cal suspension of inmates who have been released. SSA – WBA works with both BHCS and ACSO to confirm release dates and lift suspensions, when applicable.





# Workgroup Inquiries

What has the agency done to facilitate getting Medi-Cal turned on for people who are leaving County Jails?

*As part of the MCIEP program, ACSO identifies and shares information with SSA-WBA of inmates who have been released from custody who were granted MCIEP. SSA-WBA then lifts MC suspension so that regular Medi-Cal benefits are active. Usually the release dates are in the rears meaning the inmate has already been released.*

What are your plans to address this issue in the future?

*SSA-WBA is committed to continue to enhance and support in partnership any policy that impacts the inmate population.*

We have heard a third party entity can help people fill out the forms but SSA is the entity that must turn on Medi-Cal, is this your understanding, if so, is the agency in favor of this approach why or why not?

*Yes, Alameda SSA is responsible for determining Medi-Cal eligibility. We support the approach of a third party entity assisting to help fill out the Medi-Cal forms to submit to SSA.*





# Workgroup Inquiries Cont.

Are you familiar with how they address this in Santa Clara? What do you think our SSA can take from that model?

*Yes, Santa Clara appointed their Sheriff's Department to act as an Authorized Representative for the purpose of completing the Medi-Cal application. In certain situation applications are submitted by advocacy groups.*

How can our Workgroup help you address this issue?

*The workgroup can help us identify who can submit Medi-Cal applications for inmates who are scheduled to be released. SSA-WBA does not have Pre-Release information and would rely on other agencies to capture this information. Also, to avoid duplicating efforts this workgroup can assist in confirming if the East Bay Community Recovery Project continues to partner with Alameda County Behavioral Health Care to provide pre-release services for adult men and women who are currently incarcerated.*





# Questions ?







# References

[https://www.acgov.org/probation/documents/RDA\\_AB109DataClientOverview\\_CCPECMeeting\\_5-21-18.pdf](https://www.acgov.org/probation/documents/RDA_AB109DataClientOverview_CCPECMeeting_5-21-18.pdf)

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Documents/c09-16.pdf>

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<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Documents/ACWDL/2014/14-26.pdf>

<http://www.ebcpr.org/services/incarcerated-reentry/>

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