



July 20, 2012

Dear Parents and Family Members:

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

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Member of the Association
of Regional Center Agencies

RE: New State Law (Senate Bill 946) Requiring Parents to Seek Health Insurance Funding of Behavior Intervention Services for their Children with Autism Effective July 1, 2012

There is a change in California law that will go into effect July 1, 2012 that will affect how behavioral health treatments for autism will be provided and funded. This change in the law affects all consumers (and their families) who receive Regional Center funded behavioral services and who also have a diagnosis of autism, as well as the providers of these behavioral services.

The new state law (CA Health and Safety Code, Section 1374.73) requires every private health insurance carrier to provide coverage for behavioral health treatment services for autism. Behavioral health treatment services include applied behavior analysis (ABA) and intensive behavioral intervention. San Andreas Regional Center is affected by this law because Regional Centers are prohibited from funding a service that is available from private insurance or a health care service plan. This change in law is anticipated to save the Regional Center system approximately \$80 million over the next fiscal year.

You have received this letter because our records indicate that your child is currently receiving San Andreas funded behavioral services. If your child has a diagnosis of autism or pervasive developmental disorder and you have private health insurance, you must contact your health insurance provider and request funding for behavioral health services as soon as possible.

Enclosed you will find two documents that will assist you in accessing insurance services for your child with autism: "A Parent's Guide: How to Request ABA or Behavior Intervention Therapy From Your Insurance Company", and "Steps to Using Insurance Coverage for Health Services." In the near future, your Service Coordinator will contact you to discuss your transition to insurance funding if that is the appropriate funding source for your services.

"Consumers First Through Service, Advocacy, Respect and Choice"

Serving Persons with Developmental Disabilities

As always, San Andreas Regional Center is dedicated to meeting the needs of our consumers and families. **Please be assured that we will continue to provide behavioral services to eligible individuals and we will make every effort to assist you through this transition.**

Updated information from the state legislature and the Department of Developmental Services will be posted on the San Andreas Regional Center website at www.sarc.org under "Quick Links" SB946.

If you have any questions, please contact your Service Coordinator.

Sincerely,



Santi J. Rogers
Executive Director

Enc: A Parent's Guide: How to Request ABA or Behavior
Intervention Therapy From Your Insurance Company

Steps to Using Insurance Coverage for Health Services

cc: San Andreas Regional Center Board of Directors
Service Providers
Area Board VII