Home and Community Based Services
Universal Assessment Stakeholder Workgroup
November 7, 2013

SB 1036 (Chapter 45--Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review Statutes--2012)

Summary of Key Sections Specific to the Development of a Universal Assessment [Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14186.36(b)-(i).

"It is the intent of the Legislature that a universal assessment process for long term services and supports (LTSS) be developed and tested. Initial use of this tool may inform future decisions about whether to amend existing law regarding assessment processes in current LTSS programs, including the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) programs."

SB 1036 adds to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14186.36 which requires that:

- A Universal Assessment process be developed and tested for Long Term Services and Supports;
- A Universal Assessment tool be developed to inform this process and facilitate care plan development based on individual consumer needs;
- The three Medi-Cal home and community-based (HCB) services to be covered under managed health plans in the counties participating in the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) be incorporated in the Universal Assessment process and tool development. These programs are:

    - In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS);
    - Multipurpose Senior Services (MSSP); and
    - Community-Based Adults Services (CBAS)

- The Departments of Health Care Services, Social Services and Aging (Departments) establish a Stakeholder Workgroup to develop the Universal Assessment process and tool.

  This Workgroup shall consider issues including, but not limited to:

- Roles and responsibilities of the counties, HCB service providers and health plans
- Criteria for assessment
  - How results from new assessments would be used for the oversight and quality monitoring of HCB service providers
  - How the appeals process would be affected by the assessment
  - The ability to automate and exchange data and information between HCB service providers
  - How the Universal Assessment process would incorporate person-centered principles and protections
  - How the Universal Assessment process would meet the legislative intent of this statute and those governing the Coordinated Care Initiative
  - The qualifications for, and how to provide guidance to, the individuals conducting the assessments
  - How this assessment may be used to assess the need for nursing facility care and divert individuals from nursing facilities to HCB services.

The Workgroup shall build upon the existing IHSS uniform assessment process and hourly task guidelines, the MSSP assessment process, and other appropriate HCB assessment tools.

The departments shall develop materials to inform consumers of the option to participate in the universal assessment tool testing phase.

To the extent the Universal Assessment tool or process results in changes to the IHSS authorization process and provision of services, those changes shall be automated in the Case Management Information and Payroll System (CMIPS).

Until existing law relating to IHSS assessment process is amended, consumers shall have the option to request additional assessment using the previous assessment process and receive the services according to the results of the additional assessment.

Timeframe and Action Steps

Date	Action
By June 2013	State departments establish a Universal Assessment Stakeholder Workgroup.
By March 2014	State departments report to the Legislature on Workgroup progress in developing a process and identifying counties and beneficiary categories for which the process may be implemented.
No sooner than January 1, 2015	Upon completion of the design and development of a Universal Assessment tool, managed care plans, counties, and other HCBS providers in CCI counties may test the tool's use for a specific and limited number of beneficiaries who receive or may be eligible for HCB services. There shall be no fewer than two and no more than four counties where this testing occurs. The statute includes specific provision that must occur prior to and during the testing process. [See Section 14186.36(e)].
Within 9 months of Implementation	The State Departments, in consultation with the Stakeholder Workgroup, shall report to the Legislature the initial results from use of the Universal Assessment process and make recommendations on additional beneficiary categories or counties to include in the use of the Universal Assessment process.
Annually thereafter	The State Departments shall report annually thereafter on the status and results of the Universal Assessment process.
July 1, 2017	These statutory provisions become inoperable after this date.