

Date of Hearing: April 29, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Alex Lee, Chair

AB 308 (Ramos) – As Amended April 24, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Mobile crisis teams or units: procedures

**SUMMARY:** Authorizes a county behavioral health director to develop procedures and training for the county's mobile crisis response system to address the handling of an emergency situation involving an individual with a developmental disability.

**EXISTING LAW** establishes the Advisory Council on Improving Interactions between People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities under the jurisdiction on the Department of Justice (DOJ). (Penal Code § 13016)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** This bill was keyed non-fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

**COMMENTS:**

**Background:** According to the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) and the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC), approximately 53 million adults in the United States experienced mental illness in 2020, and 61 million American adults live with some type of disability (“Mental Health by the Numbers.” *National Alliance on Mental Illness*. “Disability Impacts All of Us.” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*). Of these individuals, a significant proportion struggles with a disability or mental illness that has regular and serious impacts on their daily lives. Although these individuals are no more likely to engage in criminal behavior than other adults, their disability or mental illness can lead to dramatically different interactions with law enforcement.

As police officers and agencies across the country have come under greater public scrutiny, so too has their role as first responders to incidents involving people with disabilities or mental illness. In 2020, it was estimated that around 20% of law enforcement agencies' calls for service were to respond to incidents involving someone experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis (“Mental Health And Police Violence: How Crisis Intervention Teams Are Failing.” *NPR*). Yet despite the frequency of these interactions, a staggering number of them have deadly consequences. A database of police shootings published by The Washington Post shows that Americans with mental illnesses make up nearly a quarter of those killed by police officers (“Fatal Force.” *The Washington Post*. Updated 14 February 2022).

To address these issues, SB 882 (Eggman), Chapter 899, Statutes of 2022, created the Advisory Council on Improving Interactions between People with Intellectual and Development Disabilities and Law Enforcement, under DOJ, to, among other things, evaluate existing training for peace officers specific to interactions between law enforcement and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health conditions. According to DOJ, the duties of the SB 882 Advisory Council include:

- Evaluating the existing training for peace officers specific to interaction with individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities;

- Evaluating the existing training for peace officers specific to interaction with individuals with mental health disabilities;
- Identifying gaps in peace officer training specific to interactions with individuals who have an intellectual or developmental disability;
- Identifying gaps in peace officer training specific to interactions with individuals who have a mental health disorder; and,
- Making recommendations to the Legislature for improving outcomes of interactions with both individuals who have an intellectual or developmental disability and mental health conditions.

The advisory council began meeting in April 2024, and is expected to release a final report with the current state of these interactions, discussion of best practices for law enforcement training, and other non-training interventions in April 2026.

*This bill* would allow county behavioral health directors to develop procedures in emergency situations.

**Author's Statement:** According to the Author, "Mobile response units have become a new tool for many communities across our state. For many families it has become an alternative emergency response for when a loved one is in need for mental health crisis stabilization, however, this new tool has inherited some of the same problems traditional emergency responders have when answering a call for a person with autism. First responders, to this day, face difficulties attempting to provide aid to individuals with intellectual disabilities due to a lack of awareness and education about the condition. [This bill] will help guide our local governments when designing trainings for their mobile response teams. Our goal is to make sure our autism families feel safe and confident when they call for help when their loved one is in a crisis."

#### **RELATED AND PRIOR LEGISLATION:**

***SB 882 (Eggman), Chapter 899, Statutes of 2022***, see comments above.

***AB 680 (Chu) of 2019***, would have required Peace Officer Standards and Training to develop mental health training courses for public safety dispatchers covering topics such as recognizing mental disabilities, conflict resolution, and de-escalation techniques when dealing with such groups. *AB 680 was held on the Senate Committee on Appropriations suspense file.*

***SB 29 (Beall) Chapter 469, Statutes of 2015***, required field training officers to undergo at least eight hours of crisis intervention behavioral health training.

***SB 11 (Beall) Chapter 468, Statutes of 2015***, required peace officers to undergo training related to interacting with persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, or substance abuse disorder, as specified.

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

##### **Support**

Autism Society Inland Empire (Sponsor)

Autism Business Association  
Autism Heroes  
Autism Speaks  
California Indian Nations College  
California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP)  
California State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Easterseals Northern California

**Opposition**

None on file.

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