

# AB 210 (Santiago)

## Homeless Multidisciplinary Personnel Team

### Bill Summary

AB 210 would allow counties to establish a homeless multidisciplinary personnel team (MDT) to facilitate the identification, assessment, and linkage of homeless individuals to housing and supportive services. This bill would allow members of the MDT to share confidential information with one another in order to better coordinate and provide services to homeless individuals and families.

### Existing Law

WIC § 18961.7 authorizes counties to establish a child abuse MDT to allow the sharing of confidential information in order to investigate reports of suspected child abuse or neglect.

### Background

Homelessness has become a significant health and human services issue throughout California. Our state is home to over 20 percent of the nation's homeless population. In Los Angeles County alone, over 46,000 individuals are currently homeless

A homeless MDT is a team with representatives from a variety of disciplines (agencies) who are trained in the identification and treatment of homeless individuals and/or families.

In 2011, WIC § 18961.7 was enacted, authorizing counties to establish MDT's for the purpose of addressing child abuse and neglect. Since then, over 50 MDTs have been established in over 47 counties. MDT's ability to freely share confidential information has successfully provided a wide range of services to over 10,000 children who have experienced abuse and neglect.

### Need for AB 210

Current State law does not expressly authorize the sharing of data on homeless youth, families, or single adults between county departments and homeless service providers. Thus, public agencies and other homeless service providers are

constrained in the type of information that may be shared. For example, service need, service receipt, and duration of service(s) provided to a homeless client cannot be freely shared among county departments and homeless service providers who are often delivering services to the same homeless clients. This results in service duplication and/or fragmentation.

That is why AB 210 is needed. This measure would allow departments and agencies within a county to share confidential information through an established homeless MDT to reduce duplication and/or fragmentation of services. By facilitating communication and coordination among county agencies and service providers, this bill will improve government efficiency and enhance continuity of care for homeless individuals and families.

### What the Bill Does

AB 210 authorizes counties to establish a homeless adult, child, and family MDT. Specifically, AB 210:

- Authorizes MDT members to exchange confidential information in-person, telephonically, and electronically.
- Requires counties that choose to establish homeless MDTs to develop protocols describing how and what information may be shared.
- Requires a copy of the protocols to be made available to each participating member in the MDT.
- Requires every MDT member who receives information regarding homeless children and families to be under the same privacy and confidentiality penalties as the person disclosing or providing the information.
- Requires the shared information to be maintained in a manner that ensures

maximum protection of privacy and confidentiality rights.

- Applies existing civil and criminal penalties to the inappropriate disclosure of information by the team members.

### **Support**

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Los Angeles County (Sponsor)

### **Opposition**

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None on file.

### **For More Information**

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