

## Psychotropic Medication Legislation – What you need to Know

The California Legislature is currently vetting a number of bills to improve practices related to the use of psychotropic medications in foster care. The Child Abuse Council encourages attendees of today's Symposium to keep apprised of this legislation through review of this summary and by tracking their progress at the state's official legislative website. [Leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](http://Leginfo.legislature.ca.gov)

### SB 238 (Mitchell & Beall)

#### Training, Reporting, Alerts and Rules

- Requires monthly data reports on medication use of each child in foster care
- Calls for development of alert system to notify relevant professionals when a prescription has been made
- Provides for training to caregivers, attorneys, judges and advocates
- Mandates Judicial Council revises rules and forms

### SB 253 (Monning)

#### Court Standards

- Authorizes court to approve administration of psychotropic medication only upon certain findings being made by clear and convincing evidence
- Calls for second medical opinion, in some instances, before court authorization can be provided.
- Strengthens follow up oversight by courts and attorneys

### SB 319 (Beall)

#### Public Health Nursing

- Expands the role of foster care public health nurses in medication screening and oversight.
- Calls for PHN to play an active part to ensure children prescribed medications have access to proper lab tests, screenings, evaluations and assessments.
- Authorizes PHN's to access children's health information for purposes of performing this oversight function.

### SB 484 (Beall)

#### Medications—Group Home Oversight

- Requires list of group homes maintained by Community Care Licensing to include information on each facility's medication practices, including the number of children prescribed medication and their ages.
- Calls for regular inspections and implementation of a corrective action plan for any facility that prescribes medications at a rate higher than the statewide average.