



Golden Gate Regional Center

Serving people with developmental disabilities since 1966

August 10, 2009

Dear GGRC Service Provider:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the following changes to the developmental disabilities delivery system, reflected in the Governor's signed legislation that went into effect July 28, 2009:

1. Suspension of Certain Services Pending the Implementation of the Individual Choice Budget (ICB) – GGRC will not purchase the following services until the ICB plan is implemented:
 - Camping services and related travel expenses.
 - Social/recreation services except those activities vendored as community day programs.
 - Educational services for children ages 3-17.
 - Non-medical therapies, including but not limited to, recreation, art, dance and music.

The ICB model is currently under development by DDS and an exact date for implementation is unknown at this time. 30-day notices to discontinue funding of these services will be mailed out to recipients of service during the week of August 10, 2009.

2. Respite – Out-of-home respite will be limited to 21 days/year. In-home respite will be limited to 90 hours per quarter.

The regional center may grant an exemption from the respite limits if it is demonstrated that the intensity of the person's care and supervision needs are such that additional respite is necessary to maintain the person in the family home, or there is an extraordinary event that impacts the family member's ability to meet the care and supervision needs of the person.

3. Supported Living – For each person receiving Supported Living Services (SLS), GGRC will require the following:
 - That the planning team confirms that all appropriate and available sources of natural and generic supports, including IHSS and Section 8 Housing Subsidies, have been utilized to the fullest extent possible.
 - That the same SLS provider is used for all served persons that are living in the same household, provided that each person's particular needs can still be met pursuant to his/her IPP.
 - That each served person, and any roommate they may have, make all rent, mortgage or lease payments and be responsible for household expenses.

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The law also specifies conditions under which a regional center may make rent, lease or mortgage payments or assist with household expenses for a person receiving SLS not to exceed six months. To do so, the regional center Executive Director must verify in writing that making the rent, mortgage, or lease payments or paying for household expenses is required to meet the specific care needs unique to the individual as set forth in an addendum to the IPP, and is required when a person's demonstrated medical, behavioral, or psychiatric condition presents a health and safety risk to himself or herself, or another. In addition, during the time period that a regional center is making rent, mortgage, or lease payments, or paying for household expenses, the SLS vendor must assist the person in accessing all sources of generic and natural supports consistent with the needs of the person. The regional center shall not make rent, mortgage, or lease payments on a supported living home or pay for household expenses for more than six months, unless the regional center finds that it is necessary to meet the individual person's particular needs pursuant to the IPP. The regional center shall review a finding of necessity on a quarterly basis and the regional center executive director shall annually verify in an addendum to the IPP that the requirements noted above continue to be met.

4. Use of Generic Services and Private Insurance – The regional center will no longer purchase any service that would otherwise be available from Medi-Cal, Medicare, the Civilian Health and Medical Program for Uniform Services, IHSS, California Children's Services, private insurance or a health care service plan if the person served, or their family, meets the criteria to receive such service but chooses not to access it.
5. Use of the Least Costly Provider – If two or more service providers meet the needs outlined in a person's IFSP/IPP, are of comparable quality and in the most integrated setting possible, the provider with the lowest rate will be chosen. This requirement also applies to transportation.

Federal financial participation will also be a consideration of GGRC in choosing a provider.

6. Transportation – Curb-to-curb service will not be available for those persons served who can safely access and use public transportation. GGRC must fund the least expensive mode of transportation as outlined in the person's IFSP/IPP. Transportation will be funded from the person's home to the least expensive service provider (see #5 above).

Parents/caregivers of minors must submit written documentation demonstrating why they cannot transport their child before GGRC will consider funding.

7. Behavioral Intervention Services – Service providers in this category must conduct an assessment for each person served and submit an intervention plan to GGRC. This plan will include the service to be provided, the number of hours of programming and the number of hours of parental participation needed to achieve the goals and objectives of the plan.

Prior to funding approval, parents will need to complete group training on basic behavior intervention and what will be expected of them by the program.

A 30-day notice to discontinue funding will be sent to all individuals who do not comply with the group training requirements.

8. Early Start – Changes to Early Start program listed below are on hold pending approval by the federal government, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP):
- Children ages 24-36 months must demonstrate a 50% delay in one area or a 33% delay in two areas of development.
 - Families are required to use their private insurance or health care service plan for medical services identified in the IFSP. Speech, physical and occupational therapies are included under “medical services.” Evaluations and assessments will continue to be funded by GGRC.
 - GGRC will no longer fund services that not federally mandated, with the exception of durable medical equipment.

9. Uniform Holiday Schedule – Programs and transportation to programs will not be funded statewide on the following fourteen days:

January 1

The third Monday in January

The third Monday in February

March 31

The last Monday in May

July 4

The first Monday in September

November 11

Thanksgiving Day

December 25

The four business days between December 25 and January 1.

This provision went into effect August 1, 2009.

10. Senior Service Alternative – Requires vendors of behavior management programs, activity centers, adult development programs, social recreation programs, socialization training programs and community activities support services programs to offer an alternative senior program component focused on the needs of individuals over age 50 at a rate of \$35.00 per day or the vendor’s current rate whichever is lower.

At the time of development, review, or modification of the IPP, regional centers must provide information about these services, as appropriate. The alternative senior program should be offered to eligible persons who want to transition to a program component focused on the needs and interests of seniors. Implementation of this change may not result in an expansion of the vendor's program capacity. Provision of this new senior

component requires no new vendorization by the regional center. DDS will send a letter to community-based day program and work activity program providers (and copy regional centers) notifying them of these statutory changes.

This provision went into effect July 28, 2009.

11. Custom Endeavors Option – Requires vendors of behavior management programs, activity centers, adult development programs, community integration programs, and community activities support services programs to offer an alternative customized program component focused on the development or maintenance of employment or volunteer activities in lieu of their current program.

The program is to be offered within the service provider's vendored capacity, as reflected in its program design or licensed capacity. The regional center shall fund customized programs based on the vendor's existing rate and only fund those hours provided. The alternative customized program will focus on a person's individualized needs and interests to develop or maintain employment or volunteer activities in lieu of their current program, and will range between 20 and 80 hours per month for each participant.

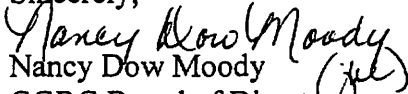
Implementation of this change may not result in an expansion of the vendor's program capacity. Provision of this new alternative customized component requires no new vendorization by the regional center. DDS will send a letter to community-based day program providers (and copy regional centers) notifying them of these statutory changes.

The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) has asked the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to supply regional centers with the exact service code numbers of all services affected.

Vendors are strongly encouraged to attend meetings of the Service Provider Advisory Committee (SPAC) to the GGRC Board of Directors where updated information will be shared. Please contact Barry Benda at bbenda@lifehouseagency.org or 415-472-2373, x 316, for details. If you would like to be kept informed of SPAC activity, (joining not required) please provide your email address to Barry.

If you have any questions about these enacted changes, please contact Lisa Rosene at 415-832-5525 or lrosene@ggrc.org.

Sincerely,


Nancy Dow Moody
GGRC Board of Directors


James L. Shorter
GGRC Executive Director

NDM/JLS/wjt