

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS POLICY

I. INTENT

It is the intent of San Andreas Regional Center to ensure that consumers have access to appropriate residential living options of high quality.

II. DEFINITION

Community Care Facilities are residential homes licensed and monitored by the Department of Social Services, Division of Community Care Licensing, and vendored by the San Andreas Regional Center. The facility may be owner-operated or staff-operated and serve children, adults or seniors. The facility may serve from one or two consumers to 49 or more consumers. The majority of the facilities in the regional center area serve six residents. The facilities may be profit or non-profit. The facility is vendored to provide a specific set of services to the consumers living there. The different service programs are described in the Alternative Rate Model (ARM), Levels I through IV. (See attachment for details.)

Family Home Agency is a nonprofit agency vendored by the regional center to certify private family homes to serve consumers over the age of 18. No more than two consumers may reside in a home. Neither the agency nor the individual home is licensed.

Foster-Family Care is placement in the private home of a family (or individual) certified by a Foster-Family Agency licensed by the Department of Social Services--Community Care Licensing and vendored by the regional center to serve children under the age of 18. Whenever possible, the child's family is expected to be actively involved with the child and his or her foster family.

Health Care Facilities are residential facilities licensed and monitored by the Department of Health, Division of Health Care Licensing. These facilities are staff-operated and serve children, adults, or seniors. The size of the facility varies from six beds to over 100 beds. The majority of the facilities in the regional center area serve six or fewer residents. The facilities may be run on a profit or non-profit basis. (See attachment for details.)

Independent Living is an unlicensed, unvendored living arrangement of the consumer's choice. The consumer may receive services as defined in his or her Individual Program Plan (IPP).

Residential Care means a home or facility, other than the consumer's home, which provides personal care, protection, supervision, assistance, and guidance in accordance with the needs of the developmentally disabled person.

Supported Living Service provides an array of services and supports to enable an adult consumer to live in his or her own home (apartment, house, room, etc., shared or otherwise). Supported Living Agencies are vendored by the regional center to act as the consumer's agent in arranging for the services and supports. The agency may be for profit or non-profit. Neither the agency nor the consumer's home is licensed.

III. POLICY

San Andreas Regional Center will give the highest priority to the development and expansion of services and supports designed to assist families in maintaining their minor and/or adult children with developmental disabilities at home.

When it is the choice of the consumer/family to find an alternative living option, the consumer/family will be included in all phases of the planning and decision-making process. The regional center will afford the consumer and family the services and supports that assist them in achieving the greatest self-sufficiency possible in exercising personal choice. San Andreas will ensure that persons placed out of their homes are in the most appropriate, least restrictive living arrangement and in as close proximity to their families as possible.

The regional center will have available within the catchment area a continuum of community living options that support the principles of normalization, consumer choice, skill acquisition and community integration. As new residential living options are developed, San Andreas consumers will have priority consideration for utilization.

The regional center will have a system of monitoring the quality of community living services. The regional center will ensure that residential living providers abide by the regulations set forth in the Welfare and Institutions Code, the California Code of Regulations, California Health and Safety Code and Regional Center Quality Assurance Standards.

IV. PURCHASE OF SERVICE (POS) STANDARD

A. Living Arrangements for Children—Birth to 18 Years of Age

The regional center places a high priority on providing opportunities for children with developmental disabilities to live with their families. To this end, the regional center advocates for and procures or provides a comprehensive pattern of services to assist families in caring for their children at home. Interagency collaboration is integral to this effort.

With the following considerations, the regional center shall develop and purchase appropriate out-of-home residential programs for children with developmental disabilities who are unable to reside in their natural homes:

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to take an active role in the selection and planning process for out-of-home placement and must approve the placement.
- Specific parental responsibilities and opportunities for continued parental interaction with the child will be included in the placement plan.
- Parents/guardians of children in out-of-home placement must provide financial support for their children as required by the State of California.
- The regional center will ensure that children placed out of their homes are in the most appropriate, least restrictive living arrangement and in as close proximity to their families as possible.
- The regional center will assess the child to determine if the child requires a special health care plan.

B. Living Arrangements for Adults—18 Years of Age And Older

The regional center assists persons with developmental disabilities and their families to determine which of the following is the more appropriate living arrangement to enhance the consumer's individual growth.

- Remaining in the home with a specific plan to move from dependence on the parents to interdependence with them. This plan will include a mutually agreed upon day/work program and social/recreational activities to assist the consumer with increased independence. The

plan will also include a provision for educating the parents and consumer around the issues of adult responsibilities within a household.

- Moving to an appropriate out-of-home residential program with a plan that includes a mutually agreed upon day/work program and social/recreational activities to assist the consumer with increased independence. The plan will also include encouraging continued interaction between the parents and the consumer.

The financial resources of the adult consumer including SSI/SSA benefits, veteran benefits, trusts, railroad benefits, checking or savings accounts and other financial benefits will be applied to the costs of residential care.

The regional center will provide information and advice on the responsibilities associated with the conservatorship of adults.

V. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY

The exception process is not pertinent/relevant to this policy.

VI. NOTICE OF ACTION

A Notice of Action is not pertinent/relevant to this policy.

Adopted 2-20-01
Reviewed 9-27-05

ATTACHMENT

ALTERNATIVE RATE MODEL (ARM) FOR COMMUNITY CARE FACILITIES

Level I staffing is based on a 1:6 ratio. Consumers in this level of care are independent in their personal care and are able to be unsupervised in the facility and the community.

Level II staffing is based on a 1:6 ratio. Consumers in this level of care are usually independent in their personal care or need minimal prompts. Consumers in this level of care usually have minimal behavior challenges.

Level III staffing in the facility is based on a 1:3 ratio. The facilities serve consumers who have one or more of the following conditions: (1) significant deficits in self-help skills (2) some limitations in physical coordination and mobility (3) disruptive or self-injurious behavior.

Level IV staffing in the facilities is based on a 1:3 or 1:2-ratio. Consumers may have one or more of the following conditions: (1) severe deficits in self-help skills; (2) severe impairment in physical coordination and mobility; (3) severe behavioral challenges.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Habilitation (ICF-DD/H). This type of Intermediate Care Facility provides habilitation services for children or adults who are developmentally disabled. Habilitation means skill building through active treatment. These are usually 6-bed "homelike" facilities that are based on a medical model with a physician, nurse, psychologist, OT/PT, etc., providing regular consultation to the direct care staff. ICFs are regulated and funded by Medi-Cal. The staff to consumer ratio is 1:3. The doctor must approve all treatment plans and visit the facility on a regular basis. A nurse (RN) and a Qualified Mental Retardation Professional (QMRP) must be present in the facility at regular intervals.

Nursing (ICF-DD/N). This type of Intermediate Care Facility provides services to children or adults with developmental disabilities who require intermittent nursing care such as injections, colostomy/ileostomy care, seizure control, frequent repositioning to prevent skin breakdown (bedsores), etc. Medi-Cal funds and regulates as above. The staff to consumer ratio is 1:3. All direct care staff must be CNA's. A nurse (RN) and a Qualified Mental Retardation Professional (QMRP) must be present in the facility at regular intervals.

Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF). This type of facility serves qualified consumers who need 24-hour skilled nursing care and supportive care on an extended basis. SNFs are regulated and funded by Medi-Cal and Medicare.