

SUPPORTED LIVING ARRANGEMENTS POLICY

I. INTENT

It is the intent of San Andreas Regional Center to make supported living arrangement services available to consumers who choose and/or prefer those services.

II. DEFINITION

Supported Living Arrangements (SLA) include the provision of opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities, regardless of degree of disability, to live in homes that they own or lease with support available as often and for as long as it is needed, when it is the preferred objective in the individual program plan.

Supported Living Services (SLS) include, but are not limited to, assessment of consumer needs; assistance in finding, modifying and maintaining a home; facilitating circles of support to encourage the development of unpaid and natural supports in the community; advocacy and self-advocacy facilitation; development of employment goals; social, behavioral, and daily living skills training and support; development and provision of 24-hour emergency response systems; securing and maintaining adaptive equipment and supplies; recruiting, training, and hiring individuals to provide personal care and other assistance, including in-home supportive services workers, paid neighbors, and paid roommates; providing respite and emergency relief for personal care attendants; and facilitating community participation.

III. POLICY

Consistent with the commitment by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), it is the policy of San Andreas Regional Center to provide opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities, regardless of the degree of disability, to live in homes that they own or lease and to provide support as often and for as long as it is needed. The ultimate goal is to provide opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to be integrated into the mainstream life of their natural communities.

San Andreas Regional Center's implementation of supported living shall be guided by the following principles:

- Consumers shall be supported in living arrangements which are typical of those in which persons without disabilities reside.
- The services or supports that a consumer receives shall change as his or her needs change.
- The consumer's preference shall guide decisions concerning where and with whom he or she lives.
- Consumers shall have control over the environment within their own home.
- The purpose of furnishing services and supports to a consumer shall be to assist that individual to exercise choice in his or her life while building critical and durable relationships with other individuals.
- The services or supports shall be flexible and tailored to a consumer's needs and preferences.

- Services and supports are most effective when furnished where a person lives and within the context of his or her day-to-day activities.
- Consumers shall not be excluded from Supported Living Arrangements based solely on the nature and severity of their disabilities.

IV. PURCHASE OF SERVICE (POS) STANDARD

Supported Living Services (SLS) shall be designed to assist consumers within their circle of support, based on their interests and capacities and the availability of generic services.

The cost of supported living services shall comply with *Supported Living Arrangements (SLA) Costs*, California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 58617. (See Attachment A)

V. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY

The executive director has full discretion to authorize service purchases which are exceptions to the board-adopted purchase of service policies. The executive director has designated different members within the organization who may authorize a director's exception. They are called the director's designees.

The first formal discussion of a request for service takes place at the planning team meeting. If the request falls within the service policy, the request is granted.

If the request for service is not consistent with the policy, the service coordinator starts the exception review process by exploring the basis for the request. A time line for the director's exception review is set by agreement between the consumer/family and the service coordinator but the time line may not exceed fifteen (15) days. Within that time, another planning team meeting will be convened. In the meantime the coordinator presents the information to the manager to determine whether a director's exception may be warranted.

At the scheduled planning team meeting the decision will be made. The director's designee will attend the planning team meeting if necessary.

If the exception is granted, the service coordinator amends the person-centered individual program plan, notifies the consumer/family, and gives a copy of the amended plan to the consumer/family.

If the exception is not granted, the service coordinator promptly informs the consumer/family that it has not been granted, informs the consumer/family of their appeal rights, and sends a notice of action and a fair hearing form.

VI. NOTICE OF ACTION

If a decision is made to deny, reduce, or cancel the service without the agreement of the consumer or the consumer's representative, a Notice of Action will be sent.

Adopted 9-17-01

ATTACHMENT A

SUPPORTED LIVING ARRANGEMENT COSTS CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 17 PUBLIC HEALTH

SECTION 58617

- (1) Before SLS is provided to a consumer, the projected annual cost of the consumer's SLA, as determined through the consumer's IPP process, shall not exceed the total annual cost of the regional center funded services and supports that would be provided if the consumer were served in an appropriate licensed residential facility as identified through the IPP process, provided:
 - (1) **The total annual cost of services and supports shall include the regional center costs for residential placement (or costs incurred by the State for 24 hour long term health care, community-based day program, transportation, and other services and supports; and**
 - (2) **The appropriate licensed facility for a consumer who is living in a licensed facility at the time of the cost comparison shall be that licensed facility.**
- (2) Notwithstanding (a), when the consumer does not reside in a licensed facility, the projected annual cost of a consumer's SLA shall be deemed to have met the conditions of (a) when the cost is within the range of annual costs of SLAs for other consumers with comparable needs for regional center services and supports, who are currently receiving SLS from the regional center.
- (3) Notwithstanding (a), the projected annual costs of a consumer's SLA shall have met the requirements of (a) when the consumer is one of a group of consumers receiving, or projected to receive, SLS services from the same vendor, provided the aggregate cost to the regional center of the SLAs of the grouped consumers does not exceed the total cost to the regional center that would have resulted had the costs for services and supports for each of the grouped consumers been determined individually in accordance with (a).