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Service Policy Manual

Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies

Definition

Social Recreation/Camp and Non-Medical Therapies are services and supports for individuals served by the regional center that provide integrated participation within community settings. They are intended to develop an individual's social skills, create social connections, and enhance physical health while ameliorating the impact of the developmental disability.

Social Recreational/Camp and Non-Medical Therapies may include, but are not limited to: swimming, gymnastics, sports club, dance classes, martial arts, creative arts, music therapy, arttherapy, equestrian therapy, day camp, overnight camp, or community integration activities.

Alta California Regional Center (ACRC) may fund camping services and associated travel expenses that are delivered within the boundaries of the State of California. Consideration of parental obligations, natural supports, and available resources are included to ensure fulfillment of ACRC's obligation to secure the most cost-effective service delivery option.

Philosophy and Purpose

ACRC promotes access to age appropriate activities for children and adults so that individuals can fully and actively participate in all aspects of life. ACRC recognizes and values the importance of family, friends and community and is committed to promoting full inclusion. Access to social/recreation activities, including camp and non-medical therapies (music, art, and equestrian therapy), can improve confidence, encourage independence, foster mental wellness, help retain emotional stability, increase physical health, establish friendships, expand circles of support, and create diverse circles of friends that include persons with and without disabilities.

The purpose of social recreation/camp and non-medical therapies is to meet the unique service needs of the individual served within the context of objectives and long-range goals described in the Individual Program Plan (IPP). Goals in the IPP are person-centered and guided through the Planning Team assessment process. These services and supports are essential bridges for encouraging the inclusion of

individuals served within all aspects of community living.

ACRC's funding decisions regarding social recreation/camp and non-medical therapies are guided through person-centered choice and decision making within the IPP process. ACRC will fund services and supports that ensure optimal participation within integrated community settings. Individuals served often experience a variety of barriers to participation in community social recreation. Environmental, physical, person-related, and task related barriers may require additional supports such as adaptive equipment, individualized support, development of professional competence in working with individuals served, and supportive equipment for activities selected. Additionally, it is the intent of the Legislature for regional centers to prioritize access to those services, not only by referring consumers and their families to existing opportunities for social recreation services and camping services, but also by funding those services directly along with the supports they may need to access them.

ACRC remains committed to increasing access to services, especially for clients who are children, individuals who are non-English speaking and communities of color.

ACRC remains committed to expediting social recreation vendor applications and processes. ACRC further commits to expediting reimbursement payments to clients and vendors engaged in participant-directed services.

Community social recreational programs can be highly successful when elements of the environment, individual, and task are all supported. ACRC is committed to alleviating barriers to access social recreation services and may fund additional services and supports to secure access and equity for individuals served.

As an ongoing practice, ACRC will encourage publicly and privately funded socialization, leisure, and recreational programs, camps, and non-medical therapy service providers to reimagine, modify, and refine their service delivery models ensuring that people with developmental disabilities are fully included.

Funding Criteria

Individuals served may participate in social/recreation activities, camps, and non-medical therapies through community programs, funded through their families, churches, schools, day programs, and residential services. To be considered for ACRC funding, these person-centered activities should include opportunities and experiences that will improve self-reliance, increase adaptive behaviors, and improve the ability to establish social relationships. These are primary social and recreational benefits.

The social and recreational benefit of each activity or service specified within the IPP shall also be considered when planning and purchasing such services. In some cases, an individual may need services to develop a particular skill to join or participate in a social recreational program. An example is learning to swim to later participate in water sports or pool parties with friends and family. ACRC will consider funding additional supports to encourage service equity and access to social recreation, camp, and non-medical therapies.

ACRC may purchase social recreation/camp and non-medical therapy services when the following criteria are met:

- The individual is at least three (3) years of age.
- The individual resides in their own home or with family, including foster care.
- The Planning Team has identified and documented challenge(s).
- Social Recreation/Camp and Non-Medical Therapy services are not currently funded through a generic resource.

ACRC will not require a client or family member to:

(1) Exhaust services under the In-Home Supportive Services program (Article 7 (commencing with Section 12300) of Chapter 3 of Part 3 of Division 9) in order for their regional center to consider funding or to authorize purchasing social recreation services, camping services, and nonmedical therapies, including, but not limited to, specialized recreation, art, dance, and music.

(2) Exchange respite hours or any other service or support authorized by the regional center for service hours of social recreation services, camping services, or nonmedical therapies, including, but not limited to, specialized recreation, art, dance, and music, as a condition of service authorization by the regional center of social recreation services, camping services, and nonmedical therapies.

(3) Pay a copayment, or a similar shared pay arrangement aimed at offsetting costs, in order to receive social recreation services, camping services, or nonmedical therapies, including, but not limited to, specialized recreation, art, dance, and music.

Service Amount and Frequency

- Funding for social recreation activity, service, program, or non-medical therapy may be purchased as determined through Planning Team assessments and recommendations.
- Social recreation activities may occur once or twice weekly for two hours total per week but is based on the frequency and quantity of services assessed and determined to be needed within the Planning Team process.
- Non-medical therapies may occur twice a week (hourly sessions) or consistent with the Planning Team assessments and recommendations and service needs determination.
- One session of camp, up to two weeks per year, may be purchased.
- Social recreation services and non-medical therapies cannot be used to replace an individual's need for childcare when parents are working.

Planning Team Considerations

- Activities that are solely entertainment, such as musicals, concerts, movies, comedy shows and sporting events or events that are one-time admittance such as, amusement parks, are not considered social recreation.

Evaluation of Progress

- In accordance with the IPP, services will be reviewed at regular intervals to monitor progress and to

ensure continued need.

- Consideration of Client participation, engagement, benefit and desire to continue with the funded activity.
- Vended service providers will submit progress reports quarterly, semiannually, or required frequency specified within their service delivery design, ACRC agreements or where legally required.

Exceptions and Appeal Process

The ACRC Executive Director or designee may grant an exemption to this policy as warranted under extraordinary circumstances. Accordingly, if an individual served or their legal representative disagrees with services offered through implementation of this policy, they retain the right to appeal the Planning Team's and the Executive Director's (or designee's) decision as described within Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4710 et al.