

THERAPEUTIC SERVICES POLICY

I. INTENT

San Andreas Regional Center recognizes that some consumers have conditions related to their developmental disability that may require therapeutic intervention. The intent of this policy is to ensure that consumers have access to these services.

II. DEFINITION

Consumers, Individuals served by the regional center and Persons we serve are terms that are used interchangeably throughout the San Andreas Purchase of Service policies to refer to those individuals who receive services from the regional center. These same terms are used throughout the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act.

Therapeutic services are therapies generally prescribed by a physician to rehabilitate or treat a condition related to a consumer's developmental disability.

III. POLICY

Therapeutic services may be purchased when they are necessary to enhance functioning or to prevent deterioration in an area of development. The need for a therapeutic service must be clinically related to a developmentally disabling condition.

IV. PURCHASE OF SERVICE (POS) STANDARD

San Andreas Regional Center will purchase only those therapeutic services that are generally recognized by clinical professionals as safe and effective, and which are intended to maximize the consumer's potential. For consumers three years of age and over, generic resources, public insurance, and any existing private insurance must be explored and exhausted prior to regional center funding.

The regional center may purchase a therapeutic service for consumers if all the following conditions apply:

- There is an order from a physician indicating medical need
- A qualified professional has provided an assessment with a treatment plan that includes goals, objectives and measurable outcomes
- The planning team recognizes the need for treatment, approves the recommended treatment plan and determines the amount and frequency of service
- There are no generic, private or public services available
- Generic and private insurance, where applicable, have been denied

For consumers 35 months of age and under, assessments must be completed prior to the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting, and all service decisions must be made within the context of the IFSP. San Andreas will fund initial therapeutic services while referrals are pursued through generic private or public agencies that have the responsibility to provide such services. The regional center will require the use a family's private insurance if available. The regional center will not pay the cost of accessing private insurance, i.e. deductibles or co-payments.

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 on 4/18/11