

SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICES POLICY

I. **Intent:**

It is the intent of San Andreas Regional Center to make supported living services available to individuals served by the regional center in order to assist them to reside and integrate in the least restrictive community setting consistent with their choices and abilities. The regional center shall implement this policy in compliance with all existing federal and state laws and regulations (e.g., California Welfare & Institutions Code §4689 and Title 17 California Code of Regulations §58600 et al).

II. **Definitions:**

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.

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 individual 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:

- Individuals shall be supported in living arrangements which are typical of those in which persons without disabilities reside.
- The services or supports that an individual receives shall change as ~~his or her~~ their needs change.
- The individual's preference shall guide decisions concerning where and with whom they live.
- Individuals shall have control over the environment within their own home.
- Individuals and, where applicable, their limited conservator shall have a choice regarding the selection of the supported living services provider and provider staff selected to work with them.
- The purpose of providing services and supports shall be to assist that individual to exercise choice in their life while building critical and durable relationships with other individuals.
- The services or supports shall be flexible and tailored to the individual's needs and preferences.
- Services and supports are most effective when provided where a person lives and within the context of their day-to-day activities.
- Individuals shall not be excluded from Supported Living Arrangements based solely on the nature and severity of their disabilities
- Individuals and their roommates will be responsible for their rent, mortgage, or lease payments and household expenses.
- Individuals may experience temporary financial barriers to their supported living arrangement. After exploring available generic services and supports, a regional center may contribute towards rent, mortgage, or lease payments and/or household expenses for up to six months in order to meet the specific needs of the individual. The executive director or their designee may determine that initial or continued payment is required to guarantee the individual's health and safety. Any payments the regional center makes shall be reviewed quarterly. Any request for continued funding beyond one year shall require verification via an addendum to the individual's IPP.

IV. Purchase of Service Standard:

Supported Living Services (SLS) shall be designed to assist individuals 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 all applicable statutes and regulations and shall be cost-effective and appropriate to meet the individual's needs, as excerpted below:

**Title 17 California Code of Regulations §58617
§58617. Supported Living Arrangement Costs.**

(a) 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 all 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.

(b) 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.

(c) 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).

The individual's interdisciplinary program planning team shall discuss and determine the amount and manner in which they are served by the supported living services provider. The individual's service coordinator shall complete the standardized supported living services questionnaire (appended) at the time of this IPP or addendum meeting. Service hours, including both awake and sleep staff hours, shall take in to account the individuals' needs, the presence and availability of other services and supports, and the individual's health and safety.

V. Exception Process:

The executive director has full discretion to authorize service purchases which are exceptions to the board-adopted purchase of service polices and standards. The Executive Director has designated that the Director and Associate Directors of Consumer Services are authorized to grant an exception in the executive director's stead; these individuals are referred to as 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 timeline for the director's exception review is set by agreement between the individual/family and the service coordinator but the timeline 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 individual/family, and gives a copy of the amended plan to the individual/family.

VI. Notice of Action

If an exception is not granted, or if a decision is made to deny, reduce, or cancel the service without the agreement of the individual or the individual's representative, a Notice of Action and a Fair Hearing form will be sent.

DDS Approved: May 3, 2022
Board Adopted: May 16, 2022