

## SOCIAL RECREATION AND SOCIAL SKILLS POLICY

- I. **Purpose:** It is the intent of San Andreas Regional Center to provide appropriate and cost-effective training and opportunities to encourage the development of age-appropriate social skills among individuals served and to facilitate their inclusion in community settings, in compliance with all state and federal laws, regulations, and court decisions.
  
- II. **Definitions:**
  - **Consumer, individual, and person served are used interchangeably in regional center policy and the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act and mean a person who has been found eligible and receives services from the regional center.**
  - *Social skills* are those abilities and behaviors necessary to initiate, explore, and participate in meaningful, age-appropriate social relationships and activities.
  - *Social skills* and *community integration training programs* are vendored services intended to identify an individual's barriers to participating in community-based social activities and to provide appropriate interventions, replacement skills, and behavioral strategies to the person. Examples may include art, dance, music, and other nonmedical therapies or activities.
  - *Age-appropriate social activities* mean participation in social recreation activities such as sports, hobbies, arts, leisure, educational, and/or volunteer activities with same-age peers.
  - *Inclusive community setting* means clubs, centers, halls, sites, and other locations where individuals with and without disabilities engage in social activities.
  - Activities may include but not limited to swimming, gymnastics, sports clubs, day and night camps, music classes, and other social activities.
  
- III. **Policy:** The regional center recognizes that access to social and recreational programs can improve confidence, encourage independence, increase emotional connections, and improve health. SARC encourages, access to social/recreation activities that can help an individual achieve these and other benefits.

- IV. **Purchase of Service Standard:** The individual program plan (IPP) team shall identify age-appropriate social activities. Social recreation activities and non-medical therapies may occur up to 6 hours total per week but is based on the frequency and quantity of services assessed and determined to be needed by the IPP team. These services shall not replace or be used for day care, respite, or in lieu of natural support. Requests for supplemental services for example but not limited to, 1:1 staffing shall be evaluated in an expeditious manner in order to facilitate the person's access to the community.
- V. **Exception Process:** The executive director has full discretion to authorize purchases of service which are exceptions to the board-adopted purchase of service policies 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. At 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 the exception is not granted, the service coordinator promptly informs the individual/family that it has not been granted, informs the individual /family of their appeal rights, and sends a notice of action and a fair hearing form.

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 will be sent.

**DDS Approved – March 12, 2024**  
**Board Adopted – March 18, 2024**