

VALLEY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CENTER SERVICE STANDARD

NONMEDICAL THERAPY SERVICES

Philosophy and Purpose

It is the philosophy of VMRC that people with developmental disabilities have access to age appropriate nonmedical therapy. VMRC believes that such activities are an important and necessary part of all people's lives. As such, VMRC will promote the participation of people with developmental disabilities in meaningful, preferred nonmedical therapies.

The purpose of nonmedical therapy services is to meet the person's need for specialized services and supports, or special adaptations of generic services.

Definition

Nonmedical therapy services should be those supports and services that are supplemental to the primary intervention or treatment support of the consumer. All interventions must be evidence-based practice related to the qualifying condition and developmental disability of the consumer. Examples of potential nonmedical therapies include those listed in WIC 4688.22(a)(2), such as specialized recreational therapy, specialized art therapy, specialized dance therapy, and specialized music therapy.

Requested nonmedical therapy providers should have verifiable credentials to implement any requested therapies. If required by the California Code of Regulations Title 17 or the California Department of Developmental Services, service providers shall be credentialed, certified, or licensed by an appropriate licensing or credentialing body.

For the purposes of identifying allowable nonmedical therapies, the provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code 4648(a)(17) does not apply to nonmedical therapies.

Eligibility and Implementation Process

Nonmedical therapy includes services and support that are evidenced-based practice in order to be considered habilitative. Testimonials will not be considered a valid indication that a nonmedical therapy is evidence-based. Requested nonmedical therapy services must be identified through the IPP/ISFP process with the planning team and included in

the IPP/IFSP. The Planning Team as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code 4512 (j), which includes the person served, reviews the need for nonmedical therapy and develops a statement of goals based upon the needs, preferences, and life choices of the person. The Team considers several factors that support or inhibit the achievement of the person's goals (e.g., the person's own abilities, family, friends, residential care facility, and community resources). Use of generic resources should be explored, and the cost effectiveness of the requested service considered. VMRC will fund approved services if/while generic resources are being explored and the exploration of generic resources shall not delay the implementation of these services.

("Planning team" means the individual with developmental disabilities, the parents or legally appointed guardian of a minor consumer or the legally appointed conservator of an adult consumer, the authorized representative, including those appointed pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 4541, one or more regional center representatives, including the designated regional center service coordinator pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 4640.7, any individual, including a service provider, invited by the consumer, the parents or legally appointed guardian of a minor consumer or the legally appointed conservator of an adult consumer, or the authorized representative, including those appointed pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 4541, and including a minor's, dependent's, or ward's court-appointed developmental services decisionmaker appointed pursuant to Section 319, 361, or 726.)

Exceptions and Appeals Process

As with all VMRC purchased services, if the Planning Team determines that sufficient support exists to request an exception to these standards, a Purchase of Service Exceptions request should be submitted.

VMRC recognizes that there may be occasions when a decision is made by VMRC that may not satisfy the consumer or his/her legally authorized representative. When the person or his/her legally authorized representative believes a VMRC decision is illegal, discriminatory, or not in their best interest, an appeal can be made to challenge that decision. All processes shall be in compliance with Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 4700-4730.