

## Parenting Skills Training Policy for Individuals We Serve

- I. **Purpose:** It is the intent of San Andreas Regional Center to, in compliance with all state and federal laws, regulations, and court decisions, provide services, which enable individuals to lead the most independent and productive lives possible, including parenting and raising a family.
  
- 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.**
  
  - *Parenting Skills Training* focuses on the living skills which protect and support the health and safety of a child of an individual we serve. The training may include direct instruction in childcare, stimulation, and appropriate behavior expectations. It will also provide guidance in the development of community support systems.
  
- III. **Policy:** In recognizing the rights of persons with disabilities to have relationships, marry, be part of a family, and to parent if they so choose, San Andreas Regional Center shall purchase parenting skills training for an individual who is participating in raising a child when the planning team determines it is necessary. Services may be initiated during the individual's pregnancy.
  
- IV. **Purchase of Service Standard:** San Andreas Regional Center will pursue generic resources for the provision of this service. If there are none available, the regional center will advocate for their development. If specialized parent training is required, San Andreas will purchase this service from a qualified vendor. Continuation of this service will depend upon the progress toward the goals identified in the individual's program plan (IPP).

- 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. 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 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 consumer or the individual's representative, a Notice of Action will be sent.

**DDS Approved: August 25, 2023**

**Board Adopted: October 16, 2023**