



SOCIAL RECREATION, CAMPING, AND NON-MEDICAL THERAPIES POLICY

- I. **Purpose:** It is the intent of San Andreas Regional Center to foster opportunities for people served to participate in inclusive community activities, in compliance with all state and federal laws, regulations, and court decisions.
- II. **Policy:** Social recreation, camping, and non-medical therapies are services and supports aimed at promoting social interaction and inclusion, shared interests, relationship building, social networks, and/or community ties. These services are available to individuals and may include, but are not limited to, art, dance, music, camping, or other community integrated activities (Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4688.22).
- III. **Purchase of Service Standard:** All individuals who are eligible to receive regional center services may request services and supports through the Individual Program Plan (IPP) process. The IPP process will determine on an individual basis the appropriate service(s). Agreed-upon services must be documented in the IPP and pertain to an identified goal. Services must be integrated, age-appropriate, and inclusive of people of all abilities and backgrounds, or contribute to participation in these activities in the future.

The regional center will refer individuals and families to cost-effective, existing community-based resources. When funding services directly, the IPP team may consider individualized services or one-on-one services, including private lessons and supports the individual may need to access them. While individualized services or private lessons may not directly provide socialization, participation should support the acquisition of skills that promote community inclusion and future socialization opportunities. Funding for transportation to access these services will be determined by need during the IPP process.

Delivery of social recreation, camping, and non-medical therapies may be through participant-directed services.

The regional center may use a financial management service (FMS) when authorizing social recreation, camping and non-medical therapies if the provider is not vendored by a regional center and the identified service primarily is delivered to the general population.

Funding of these services will not be restricted to services that are specialized and/or intended to mitigate a developmental disability or required to meet both a recreation and social need. The regional center will not require: (1) an exchange of respite or any other authorized regional center service or support, (2) In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) to be exhausted, or (3) the individual or family to pay a copayment. Moreover, the regional center generally will not prohibit or disfavor purchase of social recreation, camping and non-medical therapies services.

- IV. **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.

- V. **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 August 4, 2026
Board Adopted August 17, 2026