



**PURCHASE OF SERVICE POLICY
SOCIAL/RECREATION AND NON MEDICAL THERAPY SERVICES**

PHILOSOPHY

The Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB) understands that all consumers have a basic need for leisure activities that may include both structured and unstructured social and recreational opportunities. These activities may be simply having a friend over to visit, attending a sports event, and/or going to a recreational program offered through various local Recreation Departments, clubs and agencies in the community. For many RCEB consumers, generic community activities meet the need for social and recreational opportunities. For example, these individuals can participate in a swim class or piano lessons without a need for specialized adaptations or support. Others may experience barriers to participating in typical social activities due to behavioral and/or physical conditions, or level of skill thereby needing specialized supports to access community programs or may require a program that is specialized as an inclusive and integrated recreational option.

SERVICE DEFINITION

Social and recreational services are set up specifically to either provide an opportunity to engage in an activity during the consumer's leisure time or to help a consumer or consumers to access a leisure time activity of the consumer's choice. These activities may be organized to take place at a specific site or take place in various settings in the community and may include educational services for children three to seventeen, inclusive, years of age; and nonmedical therapies such as art therapy, dance therapy, music therapy and specialized recreation. To the greatest extent possible, the service should maximize integration and inclusion in the community. Camping services and associated travel expenses are also included.

BOARD POLICY

Social and recreational needs should be addressed as part of the Person Centered Planning Team's discussion and assessment of the consumer's needs. RCEB may only fund social and recreational activities once it is determined that these activities cannot be accessed in any other way. The RCEB Board of Directors supports the use of services and supports that further the consumer's ability to access social and recreational activities that are available to all people. The Board of Directors supports the concept of activities that emphasize access to activities that have inclusion as their goal.

The RCEB Board of Directors supports the concept that all consumers should have access to social and recreational activities. The Board believes that parents have the primary responsibility to guide and support their minor children in accessing and funding leisure time activities.

PROCEDURES

The Planning Team, which includes the consumer, reviews within the person centered plan, the person's needs for socialization and for recreation and develops a statement of goals based upon the needs and preferences of the consumer. The Team considers the various factors that support or inhibit the achievement of the person's goals (e.g., the consumer's own abilities, family, friends, residential care facility, and community resources). The Team then decides if the aforementioned resources and supports are available and sufficient to meet the consumers need and goals. If not, the Team may authorize RCEB to purchase the appropriate supports/services under the following circumstances:

- When the consumer is at least three (3) years of age; and
- An opportunity has been identified to achieve improvement in the consumer's social, recreational and leisure life in the community or to develop friendships; and
- The need for the purchased service is documented in the person centered Individual Program Plan (IPP) which also includes specific desired outcomes and plans to develop social skills or friendships with the overall goal of including the consumer in social and/or recreational activities with non-disabled peers; and
- Social/recreational activities should not interfere with or occur during educational programming, adult day programming; and
- Consumers who live in community care and health care residential homes are entitled to receive social, leisure and recreation services as part of such residential programming. To meet social and recreational needs that would not otherwise be available, these services may be purchased as exceptions. Please note that due to requirements for payments to licensed residential homes, periods of absence from the home cannot exceed 14 overnights.
- RCEB may purchase supported community integration programming at a 1:1 staff to client ratio to develop the client's ability to independently access the community through circles of supports.
- Non-medical therapies include music therapy, art therapy, dance therapy and hippotherapy among others. These therapies are provided by therapists who are

certified by a recognized professional organization in the identified category. They are designed to effect change or growth using the modality based on an individualized plan in areas such as motor skills, communication, self-esteem, and socialization. RCEB may purchase Nonmedical Therapies based on the recommendation of a certified or registered therapist in the modality.

- Purchase of tickets to amusement parks, sporting events and social activities that require entrance fees remain the responsibility of the consumer and shall not be funded by RCEB.
- W&I Code section 4688.22(b) states regional centers must not require a consumer or family member to exhaust services under the In-Home Supportive Services program, exchange respite hours or any other service or support authorized by the regional center or pay a copayment or similar shared pay arrangement aimed at offsetting costs, in order to fund any restored service.

Case manager shall provide information about generic activities that should be available to all persons in the community.

Regional Center of the East Bay recognizes that some individual needs are so unique that they may not be addressed in this Service Policy and may require an exception. Such requests for an exception to this Service Policy will be made through the Planning Team process.

AUTHORITY

Effective July 1, 2021, changes to **Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 4648.5** restores regional center authority to fund camping services, and associated travel expenses, social recreation activities, educational services for children three to 17, inclusive years, years of age; and nonmedical therapies, including, but not limited to, specialized recreation, art, dance, and music.

Approved by BOD 4/25/2022
Updated 12/27/2023