



# TRI-COUNTIES REGIONAL CENTER

Enhancing the Quality of Life for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

## Policies & Guidelines

Policies and Guidelines - 11201

### SERVICE POLICY GUIDELINES

#### Primary Programming Services for Adult Consumers

Tri-Counties Regional Center will work to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities will live life as full and active members of their community. Tri-Counties Regional Center believes that individuals with developmental disabilities have the right to access the same educational, vocational, social/recreational, and employment opportunities available to non-disabled people of the same age in their communities.

Tri-Counties Regional Center will advocate on behalf of consumers to ensure that they receive full benefit from generic services. Tri-Counties Regional Center will provide a variety of supports necessary to enable its consumers to access all available generic services. Tri-Counties Regional Center will offer a range of community based service options that are not available from generic services to meet consumer's choices. The highest regard for the consumer's cultural and ethnic heritage will be considered in the provision of primary program services.

Tri-Counties Regional Center recognizes that adult consumers have the right to treatment and habilitation services. The provision of supports, services and/or program options will be based on the expressed preferences of the adult consumer and/or his or her family or other representatives. Tri-Counties Regional Center will advocate for and work with consumers and their families to access generic services for adults such as higher education and/or vocational training programs, as well as offer a variety of community based primary program options for adult consumers.

Community based primary programs for adult consumers are expected to meet a variety of consumer needs. These supports, services and/or programs should include opportunities for consumers to participate in self advocacy, employment training, community integration and the development of self care skills. Primary programs for adult consumers may be center based. Adult consumers will have the option of receiving skill development supports and services in natural environments and under realistic conditions.

Primary programs for adult consumers should provide consumers the opportunity to have a pattern of life similar to non-disabled persons by providing them with planned activities to do outside of their home environment for a portion of each day. As appropriate, there should be close communication between the providers of primary program support, service and/or program options and the adult consumer's family and/or primary care givers to assure integration of services.

Primary program service options for adult consumers are structured, comprehensive, community based service programs for persons with developmental disabilities who are no longer eligible for public school programs. They are provided as part of a range of services to enable consumers to receive specialized services and to achieve the pattern of everyday living available to non-disabled people of the same age. Primary program service options for adult consumers include but are not limited to: community based education, training and employment; and sheltered or supported community based training and activities.

The provision of primary services is determined by the Planning Team through the Individual Program Plan process. The Planning Team establishes the goals and objectives reflected on the Individual Program Plan.



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The Planning Team will consider consumer and family preference when determining the choice of service options to meet the objectives of the Individual Program Plan.

Tri-Counties Regional Center will seek to provide adult consumers who are living in their own homes or in licensed residential arrangements with the opportunity to participate in the most appropriate adult support, service or program option to meet their individual needs. The determination of such adult service options is made through the Planning Team process in consultation with the consumer and, as appropriate, their family, residential service provider or other representative, and will be based on the assessment of the consumer's strengths and abilities as well as problem areas.

Primary program services for adult consumers may be provided in a wide variety of settings to attain different goals and objectives. Tri-Counties Regional Center will participate in continuing assessments while the consumer participates in primary program(s) to document progress and changing needs which might result in a decision on the part of the consumer and family or representatives to move to a more appropriate program.

Tri-Counties Regional Center will not authorize funding for any primary program service for adult consumers that is considered experimental, optional or elective in nature. The expected result from the provision of a primary program service for adult consumers must lead to the development of measurable outcomes stated on the consumer's Individual Program Plan. The provision of any primary program service for adults must be both clinically and fiscally an effective use of public funds.

### Exception Policy:

Tri-Counties Regional Center 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 a Service Policy will be made through the Planning Team process.

### Clarification of Terms:

Public transportation resources include, but are not limited to: generic transportation services such as publicly funded bus transit and para transit systems, and emergency medical transportation and ambulance services.

Private transportation resources to be utilized for transportation include consumer and family private ride sharing. Other private transportation resources include, but are not limited to: individual providers, transportation companies, rental car agencies, taxi cabs, non-emergency medical transportation and ambulance services.