

VALLEY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CENTER SERVICE STANDARD

Transportation Services 3/99

Purpose: To describe the responsibility and role of the regional center with respect to securing needed transportation services for consumers.

Philosophy: VMRC recognizes that transportation is an essential part of becoming independent, productive, and living a normal life for people with developmental disabilities. However, people with developmental disabilities are greatly disadvantaged in terms of transportation. To address this problem, VMRC is committed to a number of activities, from advocacy to purchase of transportation services, to ensure consumers' transportation needs are met.

VMRC supports exploration and use of the least restrictive transportation option and encourages consumers to use public resources when available and natural supports within their circle of friends and communities. An array of options are available through VMRC to assist consumers and families to meet their individual transportation needs as identified in the Individual Program Plan (IPP) or Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).

- I. **Eligibility:** to be eligible for transportation services purchased by VMRC the following criteria need to be met:
 1. Need for service is identified and included in the IPP or IFSP.
 2. Services are not available through another person, agency, or funding source (e.g. friends, family, circle of support, Department of Rehabilitation, Medi-Cal.)
 3. Service is not the legal responsibility of another agency (school, day program, care home).
 4. For persons under 18 years of age, service needs are in excess of reasonable parental financial responsibility (e.g. what a parent would be expected to provide for a non-disabled child of the same age.)
- II. **Selection Considerations-** Issues that should be considered in selecting or changing the appropriate type and amount of transportation services include:
 1. Is the age of the consumer appropriate to the service.
 2. What is the least restrictive option available to this individual?
 3. Is this a cost-effective option?
 4. Has the planning team considered consumer choice and needs?
 5. Is this option compatible with the consumer's lifestyle and commitments?
 6. What is the level of supervision necessary for safe transport of this individual?
 7. With support or training, could this individual access a less restrictive option?
 8. Have supports or skills changed, resulting in the need for a more or less restrictive option?
 9. Are there any reasons why this option should not be selected?
- III. **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 consumer or his/her legally authorized representative believes a VMRC decision is illegal, discriminatory or not in the consumer's 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.

