

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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Sacramento, CA 95814
TTY: 711
(833) 421-0061



August 27, 2021

Tony Anderson, Executive Director
Valley Mountain Regional Center
P.O. Box 692290
Stockton, CA 95269-2290

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Thank you for submitting the revisions to your regional center's Purchase of Service (POS) policies, which were approved by the Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) Board of Directors on October 19, 2020. Pursuant to Welfare & Institutions (W&I) Code §4434(d), the Department of Developmental Services (Department) has reviewed VMRC's revisions for compliance with existing laws, regulations, and applicable court decisions.

The Department hereby approves the Personal Assistance policy contingent upon the regional center's assurance that the policy is implemented in compliance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations:

Personal Assistance Service Standard

In implementing the Personal Assistance policy, the determination of which services and supports are necessary for each individual shall be made through the Individual Program Plan (IPP) process or the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) process for the Early Start program eligible children. The determination shall be made based on the needs and preferences of the individual, or when appropriate, the individual's family, and shall include consideration of a range of service options proposed by the IPP or IFSP team, the effectiveness of each option in meeting the goals stated in the IPP or IFSP, and the cost-effectiveness of each option. The IPP planning team shall consider the cost of providing services or supports of comparable quality by different providers, if available. The available providers shall be reviewed, and the least costly available provider of comparable service, including the cost of transportation, who is able to accomplish all or part of the individual's IPP, consistent with the particular needs of the individual and family as identified in the IPP, shall be selected. In determining the least costly provider, the availability of federal financial participation shall be considered.

“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”

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The individual shall not be required to use the least costly provider if it will result in the individual moving from an existing provider of services or supports to more restrictive or less integrated services or supports. [W&I Code §4512(b) and §4648(a)(6)(D), and 34 Code of Federal Regulations §303.344]

For any future changes in POS policies, please note that W&I Code §4434(d) requires the Department to “. . . *review new or amended purchase-of-service policies prior to implementation by the regional center to ensure compliance with statute and regulation.*” Additionally, when posting policies to VMRC’s website, please date each individual policy with the Department’s approval date.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Alma Janssen, Community Program Specialist II, Office of Community Operations, at (916) 651-8818, or by email, at alma.janssen@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

ERICA REIMER SNELL
Deputy Director
Community Services Division

cc: Margaret Heinz, Valley Mountain Regional Center
Brian Winfield, Department of Developmental Services
Ernie Cruz, Department of Developmental Services
Rapone Anderson, Department of Developmental Services
Erin Paulsen Brady, Department of Developmental Services
Alma Janssen, Department of Developmental Disabilities