

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1215 O Street, MS 8-20
Sacramento, CA 95814
TTY: 711
(833) 421-0061



February 3, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Thank you for submitting your regional center's Purchase of Service (POS) policies, which were approved by the Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) Board of Directors on May 8, 2017, and April 19, 2021. Respite Service Standard Policy submitted on August 23, 2021, was previously approved by the Department on August 6, 2018, (attached) and no revisions to the approved policy were identified. 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 following POS policies contingent upon the regional center's assurance that the policies are implemented in compliance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations:

Patch Services Standard Policy, 2017
Conference Services Standard Policy, 2021

In implementing these policies, 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 Early Start program eligible children. The determination shall be made on the basis of 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. The individual shall

“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”

Tony Anderson, Executive Director
February 3, 2022
Page two

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, Secondary Regional Center Liaison, Office of Community Operations, at (916) 651-8818, or by email, at alma.janssen@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

ERNIE CRUZ
Assistant Deputy Director
Office of Community Operations

cc: Margaret Heinz, Valley Mountain Regional Center, Inc.
Brian Winfield, Department of Developmental Services
Rapone Anderson, Department of Developmental Services
Erin Paulsen Brady, Department of Developmental Services
James Ford, Department of Developmental Services
Alma Janssen, Department of Developmental Services