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**VALLEY
MOUNTAIN
REGIONAL
CENTER**

Life with the Power of Choice and Possibilities

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VALLEY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CENTER SERVICE STANDARD

DAYCARE SERVICES

PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY:

Valley Mountain Regional Center acknowledges the family's contribution to the care and well-being of their children who are VMRC consumers. They are also generally expected to provide the same kinds of care and supervision for them as they would for any of their other children. However, some families, because of their child's intensive needs, require additional support and services which will enable them to maintain that family member in their home. One such support service is daycare.

The need and amount of these services shall be determined through the IPP/IFSP team process. In determining this need, the team shall take into account the family's responsibility for providing similar care to a child without disabilities. For any consumer under the age of thirteen years, VMRC will fund only the cost of daycare that exceeds that which the parent would pay for a typical child the same age.

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for daycare services purchased by VMRC the following criteria shall be met:

1. Need for service is identified in the IPP or IFSP.
2. Services are not available through a generic resource, (i.e. IHSS, DSS, Parks and Recreation, etc.)
3. Service is not the legal responsibility of another agency (school, other extended day program, CalWorks, etc.)
4. When the child is under 13 years, at least one of the following factors must be present:

- a) The consumer has significant behavioral challenges, including disruptive hyperactivity, self-abusive behavior, aggressive acting-out behavior, assaultive behavior, and/or serious emotional difficulties;
 - b) The consumer has significant medical or physical needs, including equipment requiring a specially trained care person, feeding needs that require extensive time and effort by care person, suctioning, tube feeding, uncontrolled seizures, or any other medical/physical need that requires extensive time and effort or special training;
 - c) The consumer, if over the age of 5, has significant self-care needs including lack of toilet training, inability to communicate basic needs, lack of self-help skills such as bathing, toileting, dressing, eating, and/or lack of ability to ambulate.
5. For children age 13 up to 18 years of age, VMRC could cover up to the full cost of daycare, once generic resources have been exhausted.
 6. Once 1-3 and 4 or 5 above have been met, the Planning Team must verify whether the parent(s) is employed and/or attends vocational training or school and is working towards a certificate or degree. The team must also verify how many hours per day the parent(s) is working or going to school.

If the parent(s) is in vocational training or school, written verification must be given to the Service Coordinator every semester/quarter. Parent(s) must verify employment annually.

If the parent(s) loses their job or stops attending school, the Service Coordinator must be notified immediately.

In a two-parent family, both parents must be employed and/or in school.

In situations where the parents live apart but share physical custody, the number of daycare hours must be based on how much time the child actually resides with each parent and how much time the child is in daycare so that the parent can go to work or school.

SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS:

Issues to be considered in selecting daycare are:

1. Is the age of the consumer appropriate to the service?
2. The type of daycare (in-home, family daycare home, center program, after school program, etc.) is the least restrictive, most inclusive option available.
3. Based on the needs of the consumer, is this the most cost-effective option?
4. Have the generic agencies been explored with the family (i.e. Parks and Recreation, schools, YMCA, Boys and Girls club, Red Shield Center, etc.)?
5. Has the Planning Team determined that the option selected is the best daycare "fit" to benefit the child and family?

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.