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Day Care Services

Definition:

Day Care Services mean services that provide appropriate non-medical care and supervision, while a parent/caregiver is engaged in employment in or out of the home and/or engaged in educational activities leading to employment, to ensure the individual's safety in the absence of family members. Day Care Services will attend to the individual's basic self-help needs and other activities of daily living including interaction, socialization, and continuation of usual daily routines which would ordinarily be performed by the parent/caregiver.

Policy:

Day Care Services may be provided to children with a developmental disability, while family caregivers are at work or attending educational activities leading to future employment because they have no other means to provide care and supervision. Day Care Services may also be available for a parent who is an individual served by the Regional Center. Caregivers who work or attend educational activities part-time can be considered for Day Care Services as an exception based on individual circumstances. The purpose of Westside Regional Center support for Day Care is to assist with the extra cost of specialized care due to the exceptional needs of a child with a developmental disability when Day Care is not available through usual resources in the community at prevailing community costs. Day Care Services may be provided at home or at an agency in the local community.

The need and amount of Day Care Services shall be determined through the IPP/IFSP team process. In determining this need, the team shall consider the family's responsibility for providing similar care to a child without disabilities. For any child or individual under the age of 18, who attends a full-day school program or half-day based on age, WRC will fund only the cost of Day Care that exceeds that which the parent would pay for a typical child the same age. The number of Day Care hours provided will vary depending upon the need. This will be based on information gathered at the IPP/IFSP meeting to determine the individual needs and situation(s) as well as the utilization of generic resources such as In Home Support Services (IHSS). Regional Market Rate Ceilings established by the California Department of Social Services will be utilized to assist the IPP/IFSP Planning Team in determining the monetary parental responsibility for children under 13-years of age. Parent/caregiver(s) will need to provide a schedule reflecting the proposed number of hours requested. The schedule must include the number of requested hours, the purpose, and the number of days needed.

Eligibility: to be eligible for Day Care Services purchased by WRC the following criteria must be met:

1. **The need for Day Care Services is identified in the IPP or IFSP.**
2. **Appropriate Day Care Services are not available through a generic resource, (i.e. IHSS protective supervision, After School Program, Parks and Recreation, etc.)**
3. **Day Care Services are not already the legal responsibility of another agency like Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)**

4. **When the child is under 13 years of age, at least one of the following factors must be present:**
    a. **The individual has significant behavioral challenges, including but not limited to disruptive hyperactivity, self-abusive behavior, aggressive acting-out behavior, assaultive behavior, elopement and/or significant emotional difficulties.**
    b. **The individual 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 individual has significant self-care needs including lack of toilet training, inability to communicate basic needs, lack of age appropriate self-help skills such as bathing, toileting, dressing, eating, and/or lack of ability to ambulate (applicable to children over the age of 5).**

5. **If the above criteria has been met, the Service Coordinator will verify whether the parent/caregiver(s) is employed and/or engaged in educational activities leading to employment. The Service Coordinator will also verify how many hours per day the parent/caregiver(s) is working or going to school by having the parent/caregiver(s) complete the Annual Application for Day Care Services form.**

6. **If the caregiver(s) is engaged in educational activities, written verification will be given to the Service Coordinator every semester/quarter. Parent/caregiver(s) must provide written verification of employment annually such as paycheck stub, tax documents, letter from employer.**

If the parent/caregiver(s) loses their job or stops attending educational activities, the Service Coordinator will be notified within 30-days.

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

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

A licensed or certified residential care facility or foster family home receiving funds from any public agency or regional center for the care and supervision provided are not eligible for Day Care Services.

<u>Extended Year Day Care Supervision Hours:</u>

The same eligibility criteria will be used when school services are on break. Extended School Year Services are provided in accordance with the individual needs of persons attending school

whose parents are unavailable to provide supervision because of their employment or educational activities leading to employment during customary school break hours. Holidays and “pupil free” days are considered parental responsibility and Westside Regional Center will not fund for typical work holidays without confirmation that parent/caregiver(s) are not available to provide care due to their work schedule.

Requests for unique circumstances or higher amounts of Day Care Services will be presented, reviewed and may be approved, as an exception, via WRC’s Purchase of Services Committee. If the POS committee does not approve the exception, appeal rights will be provided to the parent/caregiver or authorized representative.