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Reference Number: 700-03-DD

Title of Document: Informed Choice in Living Preference (Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities)

Date of Issue: November 1, 2006

Date of Last Revision: September 15, 2022 **(REVISED)**

Effective Date: December 1, 2022

Applicability: DDSN Regional Centers and DSN Board Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFs/IID)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to ensure that residents of Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFs/IID) are informed of the service options available to them.

GENERAL

In accordance with the decision by the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Olmstead v. L.C.*, the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) is committed to providing services in community-based settings which are not ICFs/IID when it is appropriate and honors the wishes of those who desire to move from ICFs/IID. In July 1999, the United States Supreme Court issued a decision in the case of *Olmstead v. L.C.* that required states to administer their services, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the need of qualified individuals with disabilities. Specifically it requires states to place persons with intellectual disabilities in community settings rather than in institutions (ICFs/IID) when the state's treatment professionals (interdisciplinary teams) determine that community placement is appropriate, the transfer is not opposed by the person, and the placement can be reasonably accommodated, taking into account the resources available to the state and needs of others with developmental disabilities. This decision is consistent with S.C. Code Ann. § 44-20-390 (2018) and § 44-20-20 (2018) and requires services be provided in the least restrictive environment.

In South Carolina, the Intellectual Disability/Related Disabilities (ID/RD) Waiver, operated by DDSN, allows services, similar to those provided in an ICF/IID, to be covered by Medicaid when provided outside of an ICF/IID. Therefore, the Intellectual Disability and Related Disabilities (ID/RD) Waiver allows ICF/IID residents to move from the ICF/IID to a home of their own, a family member's home or to a Residential Habilitation setting such as a Community Training Home or Supervised Living Program and receive needed services in that setting.

POLICY


The decision of where to live and receive services cannot be made in a vacuum. It requires an awareness of available options and merits of each. To assure those who reside in ICFs/IID have such awareness, a thorough explanation of community living options, services, and the potential benefits of those options will be provided along with opportunities to visit options of interest and speak with qualified service providers. Since family members and ICF/IID staff are integral in assisting residents with the evaluation of options and decision-making, similar information regarding options and potential benefits should be provided to them as well.

Information regarding their right to choose between receiving services in an ICF/IID or in a non-ICF/IID setting with ID/RD Waiver funded services should be provided to all ICF/IID residents, the legal guardians of residents, and the client representatives of residents who may assist with decision-making. This information should be provided at the time of admission and at least annually thereafter. For this purpose, the two (2) page information sheet entitled "Medicaid Funded Service Options" (Attachment 1) may be used. Each resident's record should include documentation that the information was provided to all who may assist the resident with decision making.

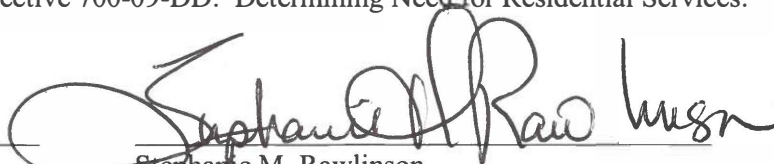
The ICF/IID provider must have staff who are knowledgeable of Medicaid funded service options, community living options and potential benefits of those options.

All ICF/IID residents must be evaluated at least annually to determine their interest in and capacity for receiving needed services outside of an ICF/IID. The results of each resident's evaluation must be discussed by his/her interdisciplinary team and documented in his/her record. The "Evaluation for Community Living" (Attachment 2) can be used for that purpose. If it is determined that a resident is interested in living outside of the ICF/IID, interventions to assist the resident toward that end must be added to his/her program plan and implemented accordingly. Such interventions may include requesting Case Management services from DDSN, assisting with visits to different Residential Habilitation settings or with Residential Habilitation providers, discussions with family members including mediation with family members who may oppose a move, etc. If Case Management services are approved by DDSN, choice of Case Management Provider will be offered.

DDSN must be notified when an ICF/IID resident has been identified as someone for whom community-based services are desired and appropriate. The ICF/IID provider is responsible for notifying DDSN. The process for notifying DDSN is outlined in DDSN Directive 700-09-DD: Determining Need for Residential Services.



Barry D. Malphrus
Vice Chairman



Stephanie M. Rawlinson
Chairman

To access the following attachments, please see the agency website page "Current Directives" at: <https://ddsn.sc.gov/providers/ddsn-directives-standards-and-manuals/current-directives>.

Attachment 1: Medicaid Funded Service Options
Attachment 2: Evaluation for Community Living
Attachment 3: Resource Information