

## Values, Roles & Responsibilities

### Values

The Department's efforts to design and implement a system of individual program planning that embodies an approach centered on the person and family are based on the following values:<sup>1</sup>



### Empowerment and choice

- The developmental services system supports rather than controls individuals and families, entering into partnerships that promote self-determination and interdependence.
- *Opportunities are provided to consumers to make choices in their own lives, including where and with whom they live, their relationships, the way they spend their time, the pursuit of their personal future and program planning and implementation.*<sup>2,3</sup>

***The developmental services system supports rather than controls individuals and families, entering into partnerships that promote self-determination and interdependence.***

1. Adapted from *Building partnerships, supporting choices: A Vision for a Preferred Future for Persons with Developmental disabilities* (1994). California Department of Developmental Services, with additions from the Lanterman Act.

2. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4502(j)

3. Note: It may be necessary to provide several different opportunities, options and experiences for consumers and families to reach a point of true choice.

- Adult consumers have a choice of lifestyle options, and are supported in reaching their own future with the least amount of control by others.

- *All public and private agencies receiving state funds for the purpose of serving persons with developmental disabilities provide consumers with opportunities to exercise decision-making skills in any aspect of day-to-day living and provide consumers with relevant information in an understandable form to aid the consumer in making his or her choice.*<sup>4</sup>

- Consumers and families express their opinions, desires and disappointments without fear of reprisal.

### **Diversity**

- *Information is provided to consumers and families in a form or language they understand to facilitate their decision-making.*<sup>5</sup>
- Professionals join in partnership with consumers and families to engage in the person-centered IPP process.
- *Professional performance reflects sensitivity to the cultural preferences, values and lifestyles of consumers and families.*<sup>6</sup>



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4. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4502.1  
5. *Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4502.1 & 4641*  
6. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4646.5(a)(1)

## Family support

- *Families are respected and supported in their role of primary decision makers on behalf of their minor children.<sup>7</sup> They make choices, which determine what services are given, where and by whom. Services and supports provided build on family strengths, natural supports and existing community resources.*
- *Children with developmental disabilities most often have greater opportunities for educational and social growth when they live with their families.<sup>8</sup>*
- *When a minor child must live out of the family home, the regional center will make every effort to place the child in a living situation as near to the family home as possible.<sup>9</sup>*
- *If appropriate, the regional center will take the steps to develop services and supports necessary to return the child to, or in a living situation near, the family home.<sup>10</sup>*



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7. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4685(a)(1)  
 8. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4685(a)  
 9. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4685.1 (a)  
 10. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4685.1 (b)

## **Community integration**

- Consumers will participate in valued ways with their friends, neighbors and co-workers in all areas of community life, with services and supports being provided which enable them to have real choices in where they live, work and socialize.
- Adult consumers are supported in natural settings in their local communities, with opportunities to live in their own homes, to be involved in meaningful activities, and to participate in the life of their communities.
- Consumers who are minor children live and grow up within a natural or surrogate family, attend their neighborhood schools and play with non-disabled children of their own age.



Virginia Rathbun

## **Teamwork**

- The process of planning for a preferred future is a team effort, which is completed with a high degree of cooperation and a sense of partnership among all the participants.

***The consumer and family are full participants in this effort. Their choices are given the full attention and respect of all the members of the team.***

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### Accountability

- *Measurement of progress toward a preferred future is made in terms of desirable outcomes as they are expressed by the consumer.*<sup>12</sup>
- *Services and supports provided to consumers and their families reflect the cost-effective use of public resources.*<sup>13</sup>
- While written records of the decisions and choices made by the planning team at planning conferences are made in the prescribed format, completion of these records is not treated as an end in itself.
- Members of the planning team complete the activities they agreed to do within the times agreed to.

***Measurement of progress toward a preferred future is made in terms of desirable outcomes as they are expressed by the consumer.***

### Roles and responsibilities

The developmental services delivery system in California affects hundreds of thousands of children and adults directly. The system has an important impact on the lives of consumers, their families, their neighbors, and whole communities. The complexities of providing services and supports to consumers and families require coordination and cooperation between governmental and community agencies to ensure that no gaps occur in communication or provision of services and supports.<sup>14</sup> Each

11. Welfare & Institutions Code Sections 4502(j), 4502.1 & 4646(d)

12. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4648(a)(7)

13. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4646(a)

14. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4501

participant in this system has an important role, and every role carries with it certain responsibilities.

### **Consumers and families**

*Consumers and families have the central role in the system, and have been given leadership in the design of services and supports.*<sup>15</sup>

***Consumers and families have the central role in the system, and have been given leadership in the design of services and supports.***

Consumers and families are responsible for: taking the time to think about what they want, expressing their hopes, dreams, desires and needs as clearly as possible, and working as team members.<sup>16</sup>

### **Circles of support and natural supports**

A circle of support is a group of community members that meets with an individual with developmental disabilities in order to share experiences, promote autonomy and community involvement, and assist the individual in establishing and maintaining natural supports. A circle of support generally includes a majority of people who neither receive nor provide services or supports for persons with developmental disabilities, and who do not receive payment for participation in the circle of support.<sup>17</sup>

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15. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4501

16. Capitol People First and Protection & Advocacy, Inc., (1994). *Your IPP: It's not just a piece of paper*. Sacramento, CA.

17. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4512(f)

Natural supports are personal associations and relationships typically developed in the community that enhance the quality and security of life for the consumer. Natural supports include, but are not limited to, friendships reflecting the diversity of the neighborhood and the community; associations with fellow students or employees in regular classrooms and workplaces; and associations developed through participation in clubs, organizations, and other civic activities.<sup>18</sup>

*A circle of support is a group of community members that meets with an individual with developmental disabilities in order to share experiences, promote autonomy and community involvement, and assist the individual in establishing and maintaining natural supports.*

Both circles of support and natural supports can be of great use to a consumer. Their roles and responsibilities are defined by the consumer. Consumers decide whether they want a circle of support and the extent of involvement of natural supports.

### **Providers of services and supports**

Providers are an essential element of the service delivery system. Their role is to provide the services and supports that *assist consumers and families in achieving the greatest self-sufficiency possible and in exercising personal choices.*<sup>19</sup> They assist consumers and families in working toward their preferred futures as identified during the IPP process. Providers do

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18. Welfare & Institutions Code Sections 4512(e)

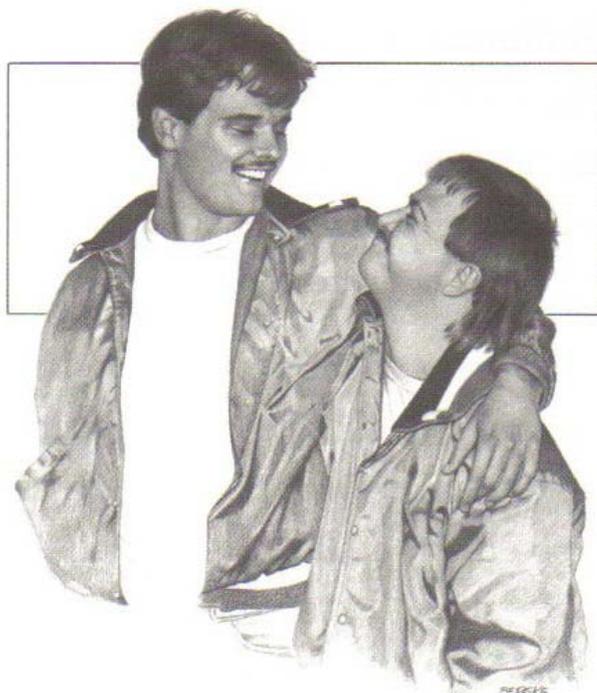
19. Welfare & Institutions Code Sections 4648(a)(1) & 4685

not prescribe preferred futures, but *respect the choices of the consumers and families they serve.*<sup>20</sup> The services and supports they provide are consistent with the preferred lifestyle and cultural background of the consumers and families they serve.

*Providers assist consumers and families in achieving the greatest self-sufficiency possible and in exercising personal choices.*

Providers help consumers and families advocate for themselves and make their own choices, and avoid making choices on behalf of consumers and families unless they are unable or unwilling to make their own choices.

*Providers are responsible for delivering the services and supports as they are scheduled in the consumer's IPP. They are also responsible for achieving the outcomes defined in the consumer's IPP.*<sup>21</sup>



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Providers are also responsible for providing consumers and families with the information they need to make informed choices. *This information must be presented in a form that is understood by the consumer and family.*<sup>22</sup>

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20. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4503(i)

21. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4501 & 4648(a)(6)(A)

22. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4502.1

## Regional centers

The primary role of the regional centers is to provide fixed points of contact in the community for consumers and their families so that consumers may have access to the services and supports best suited to them throughout their lifetimes.<sup>23</sup> *Regional centers are responsible for providing each consumer with a service coordinator.*<sup>24</sup> *The service coordinator coordinates the activities necessary to develop and implement the consumer's Individual Program Plan. Those activities include participating in the individual program planning process and obtaining necessary services and supports from generic agencies, private agencies or by purchasing them.*<sup>25</sup> *The regional center conducts a variety of activities to achieve the stated objectives of a consumer's IPP.*<sup>26</sup>

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Edward Bell

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- 23. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4620
  - 24. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4640.7(b) & 4647
  - 25. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4647(b)
  - 26. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4648

*Regional centers are responsible for ensuring that the standard format for person-centered IPPs prepared by the State is followed in the individual program planning process.<sup>27</sup> Regional centers are also responsible for ensuring that the purchase of services and supports reflects the cost-effective use of public resources.<sup>28</sup>*

## **The State**

*The State of California has accepted a responsibility to establish and maintain a service delivery system that assists and supports eligible individuals with developmental disabilities (consumers) and their families.<sup>29</sup> The State Department of Developmental Services (the Department) provides leadership, oversight, coordination and technical assistance to the other participants in the system. The Department is responsible for providing a standard format, instructions, and training guidelines for IPPs, which ensure that IPPs are centered on consumers and families.<sup>30</sup> Annually, the Department will review a random sample of individual program plans at each regional center to make sure they conform with statute.<sup>31</sup>*

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27. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4646.5(c)(2)

28. Welfare & Institutions Code Sections 4646(a) & 4648(a)(6)(D)

29. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4501

30. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4646.5(c)

31. Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4646.5(c) (3)