

Socialization, Leisure, and Recreation Skills

Kern Regional Center Policy

Socialization, leisure, and recreation services are those services and supports designed to enhance the development of appropriate socialization skills for children who may have social skill challenges that limit age-appropriate socialization opportunities or adults who may have difficulty developing friendships. Such services may include activities that involve sports, hobbies, music appreciation, arts, leisure, education, service club participation and the development of other leisure time skills.

Social skills are those abilities and behaviors needed to initiate, plan, explore and participate in meaningful, age-appropriate social relationships and activities.

Social skills challenges may include but are not limited to excessive shyness or passivity; limited responses to social approaches by others; inappropriate social interactions (e.g., teasing/bullying); excessive friendly advances toward others; socially unacceptable mannerisms, difficulty in developing friendships, and other behaviors (easily frustrated, resistive) that might interfere with appropriate social interaction with peers and others.

KRC recognizes that socialization, leisure, and recreation activities are valuable and will support efforts to remove barriers (language, culture, and ability to pay) and to facilitate our clients' full participation, along with other citizens, in a broad range of such community opportunities. In doing so we will pursue the goal of services to persons with developmental disabilities in the most inclusive setting and the maximum possible participation in typical socialization, leisure, and recreational settings in the community. In communities where such opportunities are not available to persons with developmental disabilities, KRC will encourage publicly and privately funded socialization, leisure, and recreational programs to adapt their services to accommodate our clients.

KRC also recognizes, however, that some individuals with developmental disabilities are precluded from participation in typical social activities by virtue of their behavior, physical condition, or level of skill. Such children and adults often require supports that are absent from many typical social/recreation programs. Accordingly, KRC will purchase socialization, leisure and recreation services or supports under the following circumstances:

1. When an Interdisciplinary Team has determined that the client has a social skill challenge(s), as defined above, and such challenge(s) has been documented in the client's record; and
2. An opportunity has been identified to achieve an improvement in the client's social, recreational and leisure life in the community or to develop friendships; and
3. The need for the purchased service is documented in the client's Individual Program Plan which also includes specific desired outcomes and plans to develop social skills or friendships with the overall goal of including the client in social/recreation activities with nondisabled peers; and
4. The purchase of segregated socialization programming is for a reasonable time-limited period (the client's progress in achieving specific outcomes must be reviewed at intervals not to exceed six months and there must be evidence that progress is being made in order to continue the service; it is expected that the client will be included in typical community recreational programs, with supports if necessary, following the purchase of segregated socialization programming); and

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5. Social, leisure, and recreation programs are not designed to be used as a childcare service for working parents (see Guidelines on Childcare), and
6. Clients who live in community care and health care residential homes are entitled to receive social, leisure and recreation services as part of such residential programming as a rule these services may not be purchased for clients who reside in such licensed homes. Campership not to exceed two consecutive weeks annually will be allowed.
7. Clients may choose to attend up to a two- week campership per year as a socialization, leisure, and recreational activity. KRC's participation in providing for a camp purchase will be viewed as meeting socialization, leisure, or recreational objectives.
8. KRC may purchase supported community integration programming at a 1:1 staff to client ratio based on individual needs and per the Individual Program Plan.
9. KRC may purchase a one-time dollar amount not to exceed \$250.00 to purchase uniform/attire required to participate in the activity as included in the vendored/provided service. The interdisciplinary team review process will be followed for any exceptions.
10. KRC may reimburse mileage up to 200 miles per day and per activity if client is required to travel out of town/county for participation. For activities within the city/county limits, KRC may reimburse mileage at the IRS rate if transportation is not available.
11. When these circumstances are not met and the planning team determines an exception is warranted, an interdisciplinary team review will take place. The interdisciplinary team should include at minimum three members including the client/representative, Service Coordinator, and a KRC manager and may also include a Client Services Assistant Director/Director, and other consultants depending on need. The exception shall be granted on an individual basis per the Individual Program Plan.

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