

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

February 2007

Mental Health and Developmental Services (MHDS)

Services are available to clients with developmental disabilities including autism spectrum disorders. Services include: Service Coordination, Family Support Services, Jobs and Day Training Services, and Residential Support Services.

Service Coordination

All people who are eligible for services from Developmental Services are assigned a service coordinator. The focus of this relationship is to help the individual articulate his or her needs and goals. The Service Coordinator facilitates the process, making sure that the person's plan of care and treatment is implemented and changed as needed. This could include:

- Provide information about available service and supports
- Develop service plans that focus on achieving outcomes
- Assesses the satisfaction of the person with the supports and services being received

Family Support Services

The Family Support Program was developed to assist families to care for their relatives in their family home. A variety of services can be combined as a family support arrangement. The goal of the Family Support Program is to prevent costly out-of-home placement by assisting the family in caring for their relatives. Any charges for services are determined by using a sliding fee scale. Most individuals who are eligible for Medicaid pay no fees for services. The Family Support Program provides the following services to individuals and their families:

1. Respite
2. Purchase of Service Vouchers
3. Clinical Assessments
4. In-Home Training Services
5. Counseling
6. Family Preservation Programs

1. Respite provides temporary care in or out of the family home. Respite gives families a break from the day-to-day responsibilities of caring for their loved ones. Families choose their respite providers and select the days and times when they want to use their vouchers. Families may use their yearly allotments all at once for a vacation or in small monthly increments.
2. Purchase of Service Supplements (POS) are provided to families to assist them with the excess costs of services for their relatives. All alternative funding sources and existing resources must be used by the family before the POS is issued to them. The POS is available to eligible families one time per year, for a maximum purchase of \$300. Examples of items that can be purchased with the voucher include such things as:
 - Medical/dental services not covered by insurance
 - Special diets, clothing, special equipment

- Car seats, beds, special furnishings
 - Recreation, leisure needs, respite
 - Food, rent, utilities
3. Clinical Assessments are available for individuals who are in need of assessments or evaluations by a social worker, psychologist, or nurse. The assessments provide information that can be used to assist the individual's support team to develop training programs, and help the person gain services, obtain a job, or move to a community residential program.
 4. In-Home Training is available to individuals and their families who request assistance to better cope with their relative's special needs. The in-home trainer can work with individuals and their families in such areas as personal care, meal preparation, safety and leisure skills, transportation, and behavior management. Training can be provided on a short or long term basis depending on the person's needs and the availability of funding in the DS agency.
 5. Counseling is available to individuals and their family members to provide support and guidance in problem solving. Many different areas of need can be addressed including: personal independence, self-esteem, community participation, social-sexual issues, and work issues.
 6. The Family Preservation Program provides cash assistance to low-income families caring for their relatives with severe or profound mental retardation or similar disabilities for those under age 6 living in the family home. The financial assistance can be used for a variety of needed services (supplies, equipment, transportation, and general income supplement).

Jobs and Day Training Programs

Developmental Services contracts with qualified providers that offer a variety of choices to individuals based on their interests and skill levels. These services vary in the type and intensity, focusing on the individual's vocational choices.

- Day Habilitation – helps individual attain and maintain his or her maximum functional level
- Pre-vocational/Vocational – prepares an individual for paid or unpaid employment
- Supportive Employment
 - Enclaves - provide individuals, under the supervision of a job coach, employment in the community. Many local businesses utilize Enclaves, i.e. food services, manufacturing, building and grounds, service industries and janitorial services.
 - Job Services – assists individual to secure and maintain a job in the community, provides skill assessment, job development and training, and follow-along services through job coaching.

Residential Supports

Residential Supports are available to people who require assistance to maintain their housing needs. This program is designed with a goal of allowing people to live in a home of their

choice and as self-sufficiently as possible. Residential services are funded by using the individual's own resources (Social Security benefits, job income, etc.) and supplemented as needed with state and federal funds. The Nevada Medicaid Program funds the costs of many support services if the individual is eligible. The State also provides funds to assist the person with expenses of living in the community.

The following residential options are available:

1. Intermediate Care Facilities for people with mental retardation and related conditions.
2. Intensive Supported Living Arrangements
3. Supported Living Arrangements
4. Host Homes
5. Self-Directed Services / Fiscal Intermediary (FI) – Financial Management Service

1. Intermediate Care Facilities/Mental Retardation (ICFs/MR) provide twenty-four hour supervision to individuals who require intensive support, medical care, treatment, and training. There are state and private ICFs/MR facilities. The state facilities are located at Desert Regional Center or Sierra Regional Center, while the private ICFs/MR are small community residences serving up to six people. Each home must follow strict Federal and State guidelines and are funded by the Medicaid Program.
2. Intensive Supported Living Arrangement (ISLA) provides twenty-four hour supervision in community residences for up to four individuals. These services were developed as an alternative to an ICF/MR so that individuals could live in the community while receiving intensive support and training. ISLA options provide intense medical or behavioral training/treatment needs. The services are contracted with private organizations.
3. Supported Living Arrangement (SLA) helps individuals to live in their own home or apartment by themselves or with a roommate. Supports are contracted by the individual from private providers to keep the person safe and independent in their own home.
4. Host Homes (FSA) are private homes that typically support one individual who are usually younger or more dependent individuals who desire or need a more "family" type of living situation. Homes are licensed and/or certified. The provider includes the individual in the family's life and activities.
5. Self-directed services using a Fiscal Intermediary (FI) provides for the payroll, bill payments, recordkeeping, and prepares monthly reports for the recipient and Developmental Services. The family or individual hires, trains, and supervises their own support staff to provide specific services. This approach provides for maximum self-direction, flexibility and responsiveness to the person served.
6. Autism Pilot - Self-directed services using a Fiscal Intermediary (FI Autism Pilot) provides self-directed services to families of children with autism. Funding is granted in monthly allotments to focus resources on the optimum period of early intervention (ages 2 to 8). Funding flows through a Fiscal Intermediary agent.