

Harbor Regional Center Service Policy

FAMILY MEMBER SUPPORT, INFORMATION, AND TRAINING

DEFINITION:

Family member support, information and training are designed to strengthen families in their ability to provide day-to-day care for a family member with a developmental disability, and to assist them in becoming knowledgeable, active participants in planning, coordination, and delivery of services for their family member.

PHILOSOPHY:

Harbor Regional Center believes in providing family-centered services. This means that we want to provide early, continued, and culturally-sensitive support, to assist families to maintain a secure and stable family system. We want to provide access to timely, accurate and comprehensive information and training, to give them the tools to promote the development of their family member.

Support, information and training can come from informal sources, such as immediate and extended family members, friends, neighbors, religious organizations, and other parents of children with special needs. It can also come from more formal resources, such as educators, clinicians, service coordinators, and service provider organizations.

POLICY:

One or more of the desired outcomes which appear in a client's Individual/Family Service Plan may address, in addition to the needs of the client, the need(s) of family members in relation to the client.

From time to time, such a desired outcome may refer to a family member's need to become more knowledgeable about the client's disability, to meet and network with other parents of children with similar disabilities, or to learn ways to promote the client's development in everyday family life.

Such a desired outcome may be achieved in a variety of ways including, but not limited to:

1. Reading books or other materials which can be accessed in the Harbor Regional Center Family Resource Center or elsewhere;
2. Viewing or listening to multimedia materials available in the Harbor Regional Center Family Resource Center or elsewhere;
3. Obtaining access to information on the internet, including information which can be accessed on or through the Harbor Regional Center website;

4. Attending one or more of the many training opportunities offered by Harbor Regional Center;
5. Participating in parent support groups, workshops, or other opportunities, in order to meet, network with, and learn from other parents;
6. Attending conferences or trainings related to the client's developmental disability.

Harbor Regional Center will assist families in accessing the appropriate support, information and training to assist them in becoming more knowledgeable about their family member's disability, and the service delivery system available to provide supports and services.