



## **Harbor Regional Center Service Policy CHILDCARE SERVICE**

### **DEFINITION:**

Childcare is supervision for individuals whose caregivers are unavailable to provide such care and supervision because they are engaged in work or vocational/educational training.

### **PHILOSOPHY:**

All families may experience the need for childcare for individuals living in their home. Often, families can meet this need through natural supports (family members, friends) or private and public resources (schools, churches, YMCA, etc.). HRC understands the individuals we serve may have care needs that exceed what is needed by their typically developing peers.

For individuals between the age of 3 and 13 years of age, all caregivers are expected to be responsible for the cost associated with childcare. When the required supervision exceeds the needs of typically developing peers, our role is to support families by covering the costs associated with the necessary specialized care.

Most individuals, 13 years of age and older, can be safely left alone for periods of time while a caregiver is unavailable. When this is not possible due to an individual's disability, we believe our role is of greater importance in covering the cost of needed childcare for these individuals as their care needs exceed the typical expectation for peers of their age.

### **POLICY:**

Harbor Regional Center may support families with their childcare needs under the following circumstances:

- The individual served has specialized care needs, such as behavioral challenges or special medical needs that are above those of their non-disabled peers; and
- Due to employment or vocational training, there are no caregivers available to meet the supervision needs of the individual served; and
- There are no natural or community resources available to meet the need; and
- The identified childcare service has fees that are reasonable and cost-effective; and
- The care and supervision are provided in either a licensed or non-licensed setting that promotes the individual's inclusion in their community; and
- The family provides HRC with all necessary information and documentation required to complete the assessment process; and
- The caregiver has been assessed for a caregiver responsibility fee when the individual served is under the age of 13; or
- The individual served is 13 years of age or older, cannot be safely left along and the family has exhausted In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) or is actively engaged in a plan with HRC to pursue IHSS.

Exceptions to the above may be granted when the individual person-centered planning team establishes a need to authorize services outside the above-described criteria.

*Approved by the HDDF Board of Trustees, January 16, 2024*