

## **Harbor Regional Center Service Policy**

### **ADULT SUPPORTS**

#### **DEFINITION:**

Adult Supports are those in-home support services designed to assist adult clients who reside with family member caregivers who are unable to provide essential assistance specified in the client's IFSP/IPP due to their own frail physical condition or other special circumstances.

Adult support services generally fall into one or both of two categories as follows:

1. **Connecting Supports:** include activities designed to assist the adult client in obtaining various generic benefits to which he might be entitled (e.g. SSI, IHSS, Medi-Cal, etc.) or in accessing neighborhood/community resources (e.g. churches, libraries, city park facilities, metro access or public transit, etc.). Connecting supports go beyond simple referral and may include physically accompanying the client throughout the "connection" process;
2. **Monitoring Supports:** include regular visits to adult clients who reside with elderly, frail, disabled or otherwise incapacitated family members, in order to check on the well-being and safety of the client.

#### **PHILOSOPHY:**

Harbor Regional Center believes families should be supported in their efforts to care for their developmentally disabled family member at home if such a plan is safe and otherwise feasible.

#### **POLICY:**

Harbor Regional Center may purchase "adult supports" only if all of the following criteria are met:

1. the client is age 18 or older; **and**
2. the client resides with a non-paid caregiver (generally a family member); **and**
3. in the case of "connecting supports", the planning team has determined that the non-paid caregiver is unable, due to advanced age, disability, or other circumstances, to assist the client in obtaining or accessing benefits or resources; **and**
4. the amount and duration of "connecting supports" are limited to the time it might be reasonably expected that the necessary connections have been made and stabilized (as a rule, this should not exceed 10 hours/month for 3 months); **and**
5. in the case of "monitoring supports", the planning team has determined that periodic monitoring is essential to the adult client's safety or well-being which otherwise might be in jeopardy due to the non-paid caregiver's advanced age, disability or other circumstances; **and**
6. "monitoring supports" should not exceed 5 hours per month.

Approved by the HRC Board of Trustees March, 2012. Approved by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) July 2012.