



## **HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER Childcare Service Policy**

### **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.). Harbor Regional Center (Harbor) 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. However, when the level of supervision required exceeds that 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 an individual's disability related needs make this impractical, we recognize that our funding becomes even more crucial in covering the cost of necessary childcare, as their care needs exceed what is typically expected for peers their age.

### **POLICY:**

Harbor 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 typically developing 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 Harbor with all necessary information and documentation, such as work schedule, school/program calendar and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Notice of Action, etc., if applicable; and
- The individual served is 13 years of age or older cannot be safely left alone and the family has exhausted In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) or is actively engaged in a plan with Harbor to pursue IHSS.

In accordance with the Harbor's General Standards Policy, exceptions to the above may be granted when the individual's person-centered planning team establishes a need to authorize services outside the above-described criteria.

*Approved by the Harbor Developmental Disabilities Foundation Board of Trustees  
on September 17, 2024*

*Approved by the Department of Developmental Services on February 28, 2025*