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Changes proposed by RFW to the Department's Prevocational Services Definition

The Revised Prevocational Services Definition for Family Care and Family Care Partnership (Takes effect from January 1, 2010)

"Prevocational services" are services that involve the provision of learning and work experiences where a member can develop general, non-job-task-specific strengths and skills that contribute to employability in paid or unpaid employment in integrated, community settings. Services include developing and teaching concepts and skills such as: task completion; problem solving and safety; effectively communicating with supervisors, co-workers and customers; learning acceptable work place behavior; following directions; attending to tasks; and learning how to access community locations and job sites in a safe manner. Services are not job-task oriented, but instead, are aimed at a generalized result. Services are reflected in the participant's service plan and are directed to habilitative rather than explicit employment objectives.

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Prevocational services are expected to involve the use of teaching and ongoing support strategies that enhance a member's eventual employability in integrated, community settings. Competitive employment or supported employment are considered successful outcomes of prevocational services. Prevocational and supported employment services should enable each individual to attain the highest possible wage and work in the most integrated setting appropriate consistent with the individual's interests, strengths, priorities, abilities, and capabilities.

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Members who receive prevocational services may also receive educational, supported employment and/or day services. A member's service plan may include two or more types of non-residential habilitation services. However, different types of non-residential habilitation services may not be billed during the same period of the day.

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Members participating in prevocational service may be compensated in accordance with applicable Federal laws and regulations.

Participation in prevocational services is not a required pre-requisite for supported employment services provided under the waiver. Services may be provided in a variety of community locations including but not limited to work centers operated by community rehabilitation programs (CRPs).

- Deleted: Prevocational services are not intended to support non-work-related day activities when paid work is either not available or not a component of the service. Activities that do not contribute to the participant's work experience, work skills, or work-related knowledge are excluded and not reimbursable.

Transportation may be provided between the participant's place of residence and the site of the prevocational services or between prevocational service sites (in cases where the participant receives prevocational services in more than one place) either as a component part of prevocational services or under specialized transportation, but not both. All providers of transportation shall ensure that the provider qualifications for specialized transportation are met. If the transportation is provided by the prevocational services provider, the cost of this transportation is included in the rate paid to the provider.

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Personal care provided to a member during the receipt of prevocational services may be included in the reimbursement paid to the prevocational services provider, or may be covered and reimbursed under the waiver service personal care, but not both. All providers of personal care shall meet the personal care provider qualifications.

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Prevocational services furnished under the waiver are not available under a program funded under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or section 602(16) and (17) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401(16 and 17)). Prevocational services may be provided to

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supplement, but may not duplicate services provided under supported employment or vocational futures planning and support services provided under the waiver.

Before prevocational services are initiated, the member and his or her guardian, if one has been appointed, must be presented with all options available to them, including, but not limited to the following:

- a) Integrated employment, with discovery and other job placement activities, as well as initial job coaching funded by DVR;
- b) Ongoing supports for competitive employment settings (in which members earn minimum wage or above);
- c) Supported employment participation through work crews and enclaves (this always involves doing work for pay);
- d) Prevocational services delivered in locations other than work centers including participation in thrift stores, trial learning experiences in work crews or enclaves, volunteering for community events, etc. (these services may or may not involve doing work for pay);
- e) Prevocational services delivered in a work center operated by a CRP (which provides opportunities for paid work under the Fair Labor Standards Act); or
- f) Day services (which provide very limited work options, focusing on recreation, and the development and maintenance of skills in activities of daily living or instrumental activities of daily living).

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These options shall be presented as a part of an informed choice process, which shall be documented in the member's permanent record. The options listed above must be reviewed with the member and his or her guardian and other members of the IDT when services are reauthorized at six month intervals.

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