

**Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Planning for the Elimination of Services
10-30-07**

Effective December 1, 2007, the following services will be eliminated from the Developmental Disabilities Waiver: Homemaker, Chore, Non-Residential Support Services, Therapeutic Massage and Assessment, and Psychological Assessment. To assist people affected by the elimination of these services, as well as waiver support coordinators or CDC+ consultants, the following information has been developed for use in planning for the service eliminations. Not all services can be replaced with paid waiver services, for example Therapeutic Massage or Psychological Assessment. Individuals, families or guardians may, however, continue these and other services, if desired and feasible, on a private pay basis.

To assist with planning some service definitions in the Developmental Disabilities Waiver handbook have been changed to expand what the services can do and who can receive them. These changes have been summarized for you below. It is important to remember that not all supports should be or will be paid supports. People receiving services and their families are encouraged to work with their waiver support coordinator to build non-paid community supports and to maximize the natural supports that are available to the person.

**Summary information from the Developmental Disabilities Handbook on
Service Changes**

1. Non-Residential Support Services (NRSS)

Want a job? This service was previously included as a meaningful day service option along with Adult Day Training (ADT) and Supported Employment. With the elimination of this service it is a great time for individuals who want to work to discuss with their waiver support coordinator the options for supported employment coaching. One of the primary purposes of NRSS as a service was to give people the opportunity to volunteer or job shadow so that they could better experience and evaluate potential job opportunities. The waiver support coordinator can assist the individual with referral to Vocational Rehabilitation to begin the discussion on employment options, if this has not already been done. There is also a supported employment liaison in each Area office, as well as a benefits planning specialist who can answer questions and assist with planning for employment options. There are also options for beginning your own business. This, too, can be discussed with the waiver support coordinator and Area staff.

2. Companion Services:

To assist with the elimination of Homemaker, Chore and Non-Residential Support Services, the description and limits for Companion Services have been expanded to allow people in a licensed facility to access this service. The service has also been included as an option for a “Meaningful Day Activity.”

Who may receive Companion Services? Adults, 21 years or older, who live in their family home, their own home or in a licensed group home.

How much Companion Service may I receive? Companion services are limited to no more than six hours or 24-quarter hour units per day. (A unit is defined as a 15-minute time period or a portion thereof.) Companion Services has now been added to the “Meaningful Day Service Options.” As a result the service is limited to no more than 30 hours a week to provide a meaningful day activity for a person. A person may receive a combination of ADT, companion OR supported employment services up to 30 hours per week. The person may not receive more than a total of 30 hours a week of a paid support, or combination of paid supports designed to be used as a meaningful day activity. Companion services provided to people who live in a licensed facility must have the service provided solely in a community setting, not the residential setting.

This service cannot be provided concurrently (at the same time) with adult day training, personal care assistance, in-home support services (quarter hour), supported employment and residential habilitation services.

How is Companion Service Billed? The companion rate has been revised and is now based on one to three people receiving the service during the same time interval. The rate ratio is determined by what is the usual and customary service delivery pattern and does not fluctuate with incidental absences of one or more people included in the rate ratio. Procedure code for the service: S5135 U6. The new quarter hour rates are:

| Service Description | Unit* | Staff Ratio or Level of Care | Geographical Independent Rates | Geographical Agency Rates | Non-Geographical Independent Rates | Non-Geographical Agency Rates |
|---------------------|-------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Companion | Q | 1:1 | \$2.86 | \$3.80 | \$2.82 | \$3.63 |
| Companion | Q | 1:2 | \$1.92 | \$2.55 | \$1.89 | \$2.43 |
| Companion | Q | 1:3 | \$1.59 | \$2.11 | \$1.56 | \$2.01 |

3. In-Home Support Services

Who may receive In-Home Support Services? In-home support services are available only to people living in their own homes, and excludes people living in their family home or people who share a home with family members. The APD Area Office may also approve the use of in-home, live-in and hourly live-in services at the appropriate live-in and hourly rate for the service, for people who are in need of support and who reside in a licensed foster or group home limited to no more than three people living in the home. A person receiving in-home support services is not eligible to receive personal care, or residential habilitation services.

How much In-Home Support Services may I receive? In-home supports are services that provide people who live in their own home with up to 24 hours-a-day assistance from a support worker or support workers. A person may have up to 8 hours of this service at the quarter hour rate. If in-home hourly supports are required in excess of eight hours a day, or 32 quarter hour units, the service must be billed at the in-home live in daily rate. The live in daily rate provides from 8 to 24 hours supports.

When periodic additional staff assistance is required for in-home live in services, an in-home hourly support service may be billed for up to six hours a day in addition to the live in support. In order to receive the additional hours the person must require additional supervision due to intense behavioral challenges that make the person a danger to themselves or others, OR the person requires temporary additional supervision and assistance to recover from a medical condition, procedure or surgery. The additional supports for recovery from a medical procedure may only be approved on a time limited basis during the person's recovery period.

How is In-Home Support Services Billed? In-Home Support Services are billed at the rate and units currently identified in the Published Provider Rate Table for Waiver Services.

Expanded Description of the In-Home Service: To assist with the elimination of Homemaker, Chore and Non-Residential Support Services, the description for In-Home Support Services has been expanded to include the following requirements:

The support worker, to the extent properly qualified and licensed, may maintain the recipient's home and property as a clean, sanitary and safe environment. The worker's services may include heavy household chores such as washing floors, windows and walls, tacking down loose rugs and tiles replacing a broken window or moving heavy items of furniture to make the home safer.

This service offers individualized training and is provided for the express purpose of providing access to the community-based activities that cannot be provided by natural or other unpaid supports, and are defined as activities most likely to result in increasing ability to access community resources without paid support.

4. Other Information that may be helpful:

The definitions for Personal Care Assistance services and In-home Support services already contain the requirement to assist the person with housekeeping as well as other daily living activities. If you are receiving one of these services you may request that these activities be performed.

Building Unpaid Supports in the Community

With the necessity for the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to reduced costs for paid waiver services, and a revenue shortfall for the State of Florida as a whole, it is important that we stress the building of circles of support for people and developing unpaid community and natural supports and resources. Below are a few reminders of things that can be done to lessen a person’s reliance on paid supports only, and to increase his or her connection to the community.

(The following is excerpted from the Waiver Support Coordinators Guidebook)

Connecting people to their community is a “one person at a time” process. Part of the refocusing support coordinators must do is to overcome the challenge of serving many people with limited amounts of funding and personnel. The system has had to rethink many of the ways that people were served in the past. Support coordinators are “bridge builders or connectors.” This list provides examples from the Guidebook of a few of the many groups in the community that a Waiver Support Coordinator may work with to build community resources and relationships for the person.

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| <p>Artistic Organizations: Choral, theatrical, writing</p> <p>Business Organizations: Chamber of Commerce, neighborhood business associations, trade groups, small business associations</p> <p>Charitable Groups: Red Cross, American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, United Way, deaf and hearing impaired service providers, United Cerebral Palsy, Easter Seals</p> <p>Self-Help Groups: Epilepsy Foundation, Spina Bifida Association, ARC groups, Autism Society,</p> | <p>Women’s and Men’s Groups: Cultural, political, social, educational, vocational</p> <p>Local Media: Radio stations, television stations, local access Cable TV, newspapers (college, local, university, ethnic and cultural), African-American art</p> <p>Religious Groups: Service groups, prayer groups, maintenance groups, acolytes, men’s groups, women’s groups, youth groups, senior group</p> <p>Neighborhood or Block Clubs: Crime watch, neighborhood beautification, Arbor Day,</p> |
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| <p>La Leche Leagues</p> <p>Civic Events: Springtime Tallahassee, Fourth of July, Jingle Bell Run, Harambee, art fairs, Halloween</p> <p>Collectors' Groups: Stamp collectors, flower groups, book clubs, antiques, coin collectors, antique car clubs</p> <p>Community Support Groups: Association for Retarded Citizens, Learning Disability Support Groups, Overeaters Anonymous, "Friends of the Library," Elder Partners, Hospital volunteers</p> <p>Elder Groups: Senior centers, Meals on Wheels</p> <p>Ethnic Associations: Scottish Club, Italian American Club, Black Heritage Club, Sons of Norway, Asian-American Club, Latin American Club</p> <p>Health and Fitness Groups: Bicycling, swimming, exercise, sailing, water-skiing, skiing, bowling</p> <p>Interest Groups: Old car owners, dog clubs, bird clubs, travel clubs</p> <p>Local Government: Town, township, city government, county government, fire department, police and sheriff departments, marine patrol, emergency units</p> | <p>Christmas or other holiday decoration</p> <p>Outdoor Groups: Sierra Club, Audobon Society, Friends of Florida, conservation clubs, Friends of Manatees, garden clubs</p> <p>Political Organizations: Libertarians, Republicans, Democrats, political caucuses</p> <p>School Groups: Parent teacher organizations or associations, printing club, Latin Club, child care, Future Farmers Association, 4-H, Boy and Girl Scouts, YMCA or YWCA</p> <p>Social Cause Groups: Peace, rights, advocacy, service</p> <p>Service Clubs: Moose, Elk, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sertoma, Kiwanis, Rotary, Association of College/University Men/Women, Zonta, Mason, Eastern Star</p> <p>Sports Leagues: Bowling, football, soccer, basketball, baseball, hockey, fishing, hunting, volleyball, swimming, sailing, water-skiing</p> <p>Study Groups: Literary groups, Bible study groups</p> <p>Veterans Groups: American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Veterans' auxiliaries, Navy League, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Army and Air Force groups, Marine groups and national guard organizations</p> |
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Some strategies that other people have used to obtain community supports and unpaid supports are:

- ◆ Provide on-site training or consultation with people so they understand what you are trying to achieve
- ◆ Use neighborhood recreational facilities, stores, Laundromats, coffee shops, restaurants, churches and other programs or services
- ◆ Help the community to get funds for accessibility modifications and let community leaders know what is problematic. For example, the Tallahassee Alliance for Disabilities has brought several issues on accessibility to the attention of city and county commissioners and modifications have been made!
- ◆ Start a service that matches people who are non-disabled with people who have disabilities on the basis of leisure or other preferences. Communities with a large number of retirees, university, college and community colleges have a wealth of manpower and interested persons available. Best Buddies is one of many possibilities
- ◆ Develop resource lists of physicians, dietitians and therapists who are particularly receptive to working with people who have disabilities

- ◆ Talk with the local restaurant columnist about notations on accessibility for local restaurants
- ◆ Involve community members on boards and planning groups. People who have developmental disabilities and people who have worked with or have family members who are developmentally disabled are of particular importance because they know the issues or have lived with the challenges of having a disability

If you have questions about the elimination of services and the options that are available to you, please contact your waiver support coordinator for assistance. You may also contact the APD Area office for information.