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Service Definition (Scope): Community Participation Support provides opportunities and support for community inclusion and building interest in and developing skills and potential for competitive integrated employment. Services should result in active, valued participation in a broad range of integrated activities that build on the participant's interests, preferences, gifts, and strengths while reflecting his or her desired outcomes related to employment, community involvement and membership.

Community Participation Support is intended to flexibly wrap around or otherwise support community life secondary to employment, as a primary goal. This service involves participation in integrated community settings, in activities that involve persons without disabilities who are not paid or unpaid caregivers.

This service is expected to result in the participant developing and sustaining a range of valued social roles and relationships; building natural supports; increasing independence; increasing potential for employment; and experiencing meaningful community participation and inclusion. Activities include (but are not limited to) the following supports for:

• Developing skills and competencies necessary to pursue competitive integrated employment;

• Participating in community activities, organizations, groups, associations or clubs to develop social networks;

• Identifying and participating in activities that provide purpose and responsibility; • Fine and gross motor development and mobility;

• Participating in community opportunities related to the development of hobbies or leisure/cultural interests or to promote personal health and wellness (e.g. yoga class, hiking group, walking group, etc.);

• Participating in community adult learning opportunities; • Participating in volunteer opportunities;

• Opportunities focused on training and education for self-determination and self-advocacy;

• Learning to navigate the local community, including learning to use public and/or private transportation and other transportation options available in the local area;

• Developing and/or maintaining social networks and reciprocal relationships with members of the broader community (e.g. neighbors, coworkers, and other community members who do not have disabilities and who are not paid or unpaid caregivers) through natural opportunities and invitations that may occur;

• Assisting participants, caregivers, and providers with identifying and utilizing supports not funded through the waiver that are available from community service organizations, such as churches, schools, colleges/universities and other postsecondary institutions, libraries, neighborhood associations, clubs, recreational entities, businesses and community organizations focused on exchange of services (e.g. time banks); and

• Assisting participants and caregivers with providing mutual support to one another (through service/support exchange) and contributing to others in the community.

The service includes planning and coordination for:

• Developing skills and competencies necessary to pursue competitive integrated employment;

• Promoting a spirit of personal reliance and contribution, mutual support and community connection; • Developing social networks and connections within local communities;

• Emphasizing, promoting and coordinating the use of unpaid supports to address participant and family needs in addition to paid services; and

• Planning and coordinating a participant's daily/weekly schedule for Community Participation Supports.

Support provided may include development of a comprehensive analysis of the participant in relation to following:

• Strongest interests and personal preferences.

• Skills, strengths, and other contributions likely to be valuable to employers or the community.

• Conditions necessary for successful community inclusion and/or competitive integrated employment.

For participants age 18 and older, fading of the service and less dependence on paid support for ongoing participation in community activities and relationships is expected. Fading strategies, similar to those used in Supported Employment-Job should be utilized.

The service also includes transportation as an integral component of the service; for example, transportation to a community activity. The Community Participation Support provider is not, however, responsible for transportation to and from a participant's home.

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This service may be provided in the following settings:

• Community locations - Locations must be non-disability specific and meet all federal standards for home and community-based settings. When provided in community locations, this service cannot take place in licensed facilities, or any type of facility owned, leased or operated by a provider of other ODP services. Services are provided in a variety of integrated community locations that offer opportunities for the participant to achieve his or her personally identified goals for developing employment skills, community inclusion, involvement, exploration, and for developing and sustaining a network of positive natural supports. A maximum of 3 participants can be served simultaneously by any one provider at a community location at any one time.

• Community hubs - These settings primarily serve as a gathering place prior to and after community activities. Participants' time will be largely spent outside of the community hub, engaged in community activities. Community hubs should be non-disability specific, accessible, provide shelter in inclement weather, and be locations used by the general public. Community hubs could be locations that are focused on a specialty area of interest for participant(s) served (for example, employment interest area, volunteer site, related to arts, outdoors, music or sports).

A community hub could be a private home but is not the home of support staff. The participant's home may only serve as a hub on an occasional and incidental basis. The use of a community hub must be driven by the interest of the participant(s) served. A maximum of 6 participants can be served by any one provider at any one point in time in a community hub.

• Adult Training Facilities (subject to licensure under 55 Pa. Code Chapter 2380) - Community Participation Supports may be provided in Adult Training Facilities which meet all federal standards for home and community-based settings.

• Older Adult Daily Living Centers (subject to licensure under 6 Pa. Code Chapter 11) - For participants 60 years or older, Community Participation Support may be provided in Older Adult Daily Living Centers which meet all federal standards for home and community-based settings. Participants under 60 years of age may not receive services in an Older Adult Living Center except in the event that participants under 60 years of age were receiving services in an Older Adult Daily Living Center prior to 7/1/17.

• Vocational Facilities (subject to licensure under 55 Pa. Code Chapter 2390) - Community Participation Support may be used to provide prevocational services in Vocational Facilities for participants who have a competitive integrated employment outcome included in their service plan. There must be documentation in the service plan regarding how and when the provision of this service is expected to lead to competitive integrated employment. Facilities must meet all federal standards for home and community-based settings.

Facility-based prevocational services focus on the development of competitive worker traits through work as the primary training method. The service may be provided as: o Occupational training used to teach skills for a specific occupation in the competitive labor market, and includes personal and work adjustment training designed to develop appropriate worker traits and teach understanding work environment expectations.

o Work related evaluation involving use of planned activities, systematic observation, and testing to formally assess the participant, including identification of service needs, potential for employment, and employment objectives.

This service may be used to provide prevocational services in facilities and community locations. Prevocational services must be provided by staff who are certified as specified in the qualification criteria regardless of the location where the services are provided. For participants with an employment goal, prevocational services in community locations or community hubs assist them in vocational skill development, which means developing basic skills and competencies necessary for a participant to pursue competitive integrated employment. This includes the development and implementation of a preliminary plan for employment that identifies and addresses the participant's basic work interests, as well as skills and gaps in skills for his or her work interests. Examples include working with a participant to develop social or personal skills necessary to become employed permanently in a competitive integrated environment or working with a participant to determine if competitive integrated employment is possible in a specific interest area. It may include situational assessments, which means spending time at an employer's place of business to explore vocational interests and develop vocational skills. Vocational skill development also includes identifying available transportation to help the participant get to and from work and teaching the participant and his or her family (as appropriate) about basic financial opportunities and benefits information for a move into competitive integrated employment. This service can be used to assist a participant to become ready to benefit from OVR services prior to an OVR referral; it is not to be provided in lieu of OVR services.

Community Participation Support may be provided at the following levels in a licensed facility:

• Basic Staff Support -Provision of the service at a staff-to-individual ratio of 1:11 to 1:15.

• Level 1 - Provision of the service at a staff-to-individual ratio of 1:7 to 1:10.

• Level 2 - Provision of the service at a staff-to-individual ratio of 1:2 to 1:6. • Level 3 - Provision of the service at a staff-to-individual ratio of 1:1.

• Level 3 Enhanced - Provision of the service at a staff-to-individual ratio of 1:1 with a staff member who has at least a 4 year degree or is a licensed nurse.

• Level 4 - Provision of the service at a staff-to-individual ratio of 2:1 to 1:1.

• Level 4 Enhanced -Provision of the service at a staff-to-individual ratio of 2:1 to 1:1 with one certified staff member or nurse and one staff member with at least a high school diploma.

Community Participation Support may be provided at the following levels in community locations and community hubs:

• Basic Staff Support - Provision of the service at a staff-to-individual ratio of 1:3.

• Level 1 - Provision of the service at a staff-to-individual ration of 2:3

• Level 2 - Provision of the service at a staff-to-individual ratio of 1:2.

• Level 3 - Provision of the service at a staff-to individual ratio of 1:1.

• Level 3 Enhanced - Provision of the service at a staff-to-individual ratio of 1:1 with a staff member who has at least a 4 year degree or is a licensed nurse.

• Level 4 - Provision of the service at a staff-to-individual ratio of 2:1.

• Level 4 Enhanced - Provision of the service at a staff-to-individual ratio of 2:1 with one certified staff member or nurse and one staff member with at least a high school diploma.

The use of Level 3 Enhanced, Level 4 and Level 4 Enhanced are based on the participant's behavioral or medical support needs. The need for enhanced levels of service must be reviewed every 120 days in accordance with ODP policy for continued authorization. If a participant requires supplemental staffing during this service, the Community Participation Support provider is responsible to provide the staffing. Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service: Handicapped employment as defined in Title 55, Chapter 2390 may not be funded through the Waiver.

Prevocational services may not be funded through the Waiver if they are available to participants through program funding under the IDEA. Documentation must be maintained in the participant’s file to satisfy assurances that the service is not otherwise available through a program funded under the IDEA. Facility-based prevocational services may be provided without referring a participant to OVR unless the participant is under the age of 25. When a participant is under the age of 25, facility-based prevocational services may only be authorized as a new service in the service plan when documentation has been obtained that OVR has closed the participant’s case or that the participant has been determined ineligible for OVR services.

**The following limits will be phased in regarding the amount of time a participant can receive Community Participation Support services in a licensed Adult Training Facility or a licensed Vocational Facility:**

• From 1/1/18 to 6/30/18, a participant may not receive Community Participation Support services in a licensed Adult Training Facility or a licensed Vocational Facility for more than 75 percent of his or her support time, on average, per week.

• From 7/1/18 to 12/31/18, a participant may not receive Community Participation Support services in a licensed Adult Training Facility or a licensed Vocational Facility for more than 50 percent of his or her support time, on average, per week.

• Starting 1/1/19, a participant may not receive Community Participation Support services in a licensed Adult Training Facility or a licensed Vocational Facility for more than 25 percent of his or her support time, on average, per week.

When the service plan team believes a participant’s medical, mental health or behavioral needs or condition affects his or her ability to participate at the standards specified or impacts the participants’ health and safety, an independent review shall be conducted by ODP or an ODP designee. The exception request shall include a plan to achieve the standard or documentation that the participant’s condition or circumstance is not expected to change or improve. In situations where an exception has been granted, ODP or ODP’s designee will conduct at least an annual review of the participant’s condition and service needs to determine whether he or she continues to need the exception.

Community Participation Support services may not be provided at the same time as the direct provision of any of the following: Companion; In-Home And Community Supports; Transitional Work; Supported Employment; Advanced Supported Employment; Transportation; 15-minute unit Respite; Therapies; Education Support; Shift Nursing; Music, Art and Equine Assisted Therapy and Consultative Nutritional Services.

Community Participation Support may not be provided in a licensed Adult Training Facility or a licensed Vocational Facility that enrolls as a waiver provider on 7/1/17 or later and exceeds a program capacity of 15 at any one time.

**Starting 1/1/19 Community Participation Support services may not be provided in any facility required to hold a 2380 or 2390 license that exceeds a program capacity of 100.**

This service is generally provided between 8am to 5pm but is not restricted to those hours of the day. Alterations from typical day/work hours should be based on the participant’s natural rhythms, preferred activities (not for convenience of a provider).

This service can be delivered in Pennsylvania and in states contiguous to Pennsylvania.

A participant may be authorized for a maximum of 14 hours per day of the following services (whether authorized alone or in combination with one another):

• In-Home and Community Support. • Companion. • Community Participation Support.

An exception may be made to the 14 hour per day limitation when the participant has a medical condition that affects his or her ability to maintain health and safety or behavioral needs as demonstrated by actions that have placed the participant or another person in danger within the past year.

When Community Participation Support services are not provided with any other employment service (Transitional Work, Supported Employment or Advanced Supported Employment) and the participant is not competitively employed, the hours of authorized Community Participation Support cannot exceed 40 hours (160 15-minute units) per participant per calendar week.

When Community Participation Support services are provided in conjunction with Advanced Supported Employment, Supported Employment and/or Transitional Work the total number of hours for these services (whether utilized alone or in conjunction with one another) cannot exceed 50 hours (200 15-minute units) per participant per calendar week.

When the participant is competitively employed, the total number of hours for Community Participation Support, Advanced Supported Employment and/or Transitional Work (whether utilized alone or in conjunction with one another) cannot exceed 50 hours (200 15-minute units) per participant per calendar week.