

CVS POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Area: Service Delivery

Policy # & Name: 5.2 Community Living Services Philosophy Statement

Group: All Staff, Board of Directors, Volunteers

Purpose:

To describe the philosophy of CVS in supporting participants in Community Living Services.

Policy Statement:

The Community Ventures Society programs adhere to the developmental model, which states that all people learn, throughout their lives.

All individuals are expected to follow the Philosophy Statement and Objectives.

Practice Standards:

It is the responsibility of all staff members to establish positive environments and create opportunities for each person's abilities to flourish.

Staff members will ensure that people learn and develop skills which will assist them and are useful, and will help them to live in a manner which is as culturally normative as possible.

Programs will provide age-appropriate training and support, using socially valued means.

Community Living Support Services staff will provide appropriate support, encouragement, advocacy and training as required through careful planning, safeguarding rights and freedoms, and respectful interaction.

Policy Audit: March Annually

Date Issued: March 2004

Date Revised:

Position

Responsible: Executive Director or Designate

References: ☞ CLP Philosophy Statement (attached)

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PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

We recognize that we have, in many ways, underestimated the gifts and capabilities of people with challenges. While all people have their own strengths and limitations, it is important to avoid establishing limitations prior to providing the opportunity to develop strengths.

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms assures basic rights for all Canadians. Staff members have the responsibility to assist each person in understanding what is involved in the exercise of their rights. Staff members have a further responsibility to ensure that rights and freedoms are upheld for the people they serve. In order to facilitate integration, programs will be located, as much as possible, in areas that allow participant's access to the wider community and generic services.

Every effort will be made to assist individuals to become an integral part of society. Staff will assist participants in utilizing community recreation and cultural resources. Program planning will include opportunities for participants to be seen as contributing members of their community.

We have learned there is such a thing as dignity in risk, and there can be a dehumanizing indignity in complete safety. Staff are expected to ensure this dimension of human dignity for people who are disabled, and help prepare them for facing real but prudent risk in a real world.

Objectives

To structure a values-based service system that is based upon the capacities, strengths and needs of individuals with disabilities.

To accept with conviction the fact that people with developmental disabilities have the right to expect and to demand quality support services.

To aid each person in developing skills and enhance abilities which will assist him / her to live in a manner which is as culturally normative as possible.

To assist program participants in the development of a greater sense of self-sufficiency, self-respect, responsibility and independence / inter-dependence.

To assist each participant to make choices regarding his / her own life and whenever possible, to honor those choices.

To provide support that will enable people to maximize abilities.

To maximize the skills of Community Living Support Services staff in order to progressively upgrade services.

When necessary, to assist individuals in the safeguarding of their rights with regard to housing, employment, privacy, voting, etc.

To facilitate the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities into our community focusing on creating relationships with members of the community in which they live.

To provide the type and intensity of support required on an individual basis.

Comment [U1]: Does this allow for supporting individuals in less culturally normative choices sufficiently. Rights issue.

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To assist participants in using community services and resources.

To work in cooperation with program participants, parents, families, advocates, friends, other agency staff, other Association staff.

To support the public education efforts of the Community Ventures Society.