

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 320, MS 3-9  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TTY (916) 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)  
(916) 654-1958



November 20, 2017

Laura Larson, Executive Director  
Far Northern Regional Center  
P.O. Box 492418  
Redding, CA 96049

Dear Ms. Larson:

Thank you for submitting revisions to your regional center's Purchase of Service (POS) policy that was approved by Far Northern Regional Center's (FNRC) Board of Directors on September 22, 2017. Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 4434, subd. (d), the Department of Developmental Services (Department) has reviewed FNRC's revisions for compliance with existing laws, regulations and applicable court decisions.

The Department hereby approves the following POS policy contingent upon the regional center's assurance that the policy is implemented so as to comply with applicable federal and state laws, and regulations:

**Conservatorship Policy**

In implementing this policy, the determination of which services and supports are necessary for each consumer shall be made through the Individual Program Plan (IPP) process or the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) process for Early Start program eligible children. The determination shall be made on the basis of the needs and preferences of the consumer, or when appropriate, the consumer's family, and shall include consideration of a range of service options proposed by the IPP or IFSP team, the effectiveness of each option in meeting the goals stated in the IPP or IFSP and the cost-effectiveness of each option. The IPP planning team shall consider the cost of providing services or supports of comparable quality by different providers, if available, and the least costly available provider of comparable service, including the cost of transportation, who is able to accomplish all or part of the consumer's IPP, consistent with the particular needs of the consumer and family as identified in the IPP, shall be selected. In determining the least costly provider, the availability of federal financial participation shall be considered. The consumer shall not be required to use the least costly provider if it will result in the consumer moving from an existing provider

**“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”**

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of services or supports to more restrictive or less integrated services or supports.  
(WIC §4512, subd.(b) and §4648 subd.(a)(6)(D), and 34 CFR 303.344)

For any future changes in POS policies, please note that WIC section 4434, subd.(d) requires the Department to “. . . review new or amended purchase-of-service policies prior to implementation by the regional center to ensure compliance with statute and regulation.” Additionally, when posting policies to FNRC’s website, please date each individual policy with the Department’s approval date.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Allan Smith, Regional Center Operations Section, at (916) 654-3668, or by email, at [allan.smith@dds.ca.gov](mailto:allan.smith@dds.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

BRIAN WINFIELD  
Deputy Director  
Community Services Division

cc: Ronda Dever, Board Chairperson  
Far Northern Regional Center Coordinating Council on Developmental Disabilities