



MENTAL RETARDATION BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

DATE OF ISSUE

December 27, 1984

EFFECTIVE DATE

July 1, 1984

NUMBER

99-84-21

SUBJECT

Supplement & Amendment to the DPW
Policy on Support Services for Persons
with Mental Retardation & Their Families

BY

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SCOPS

Regional MR Commissioners
County MH/MR Administrators
Base Service Unit Directors
DPW Program and Administrative Deputies

PURPOSE

To apprise counties of the expansion of the range of services eligible for funding through the County Mental Retardation Program as family and client support services including out not limited to the services defined in 55 PA Code Ch. 6350).

BACKGROUND

Mental Retardation Bulletin No. 99-33-24, issued on October 14, 1983, identified several of the types of family and client support services which may be funded through the County Mental Retardation Programs. Since the issuance of that Bulletin, the Office of Mental Retardation has determined that transportation should no longer be considered as a family support service and therefore should no longer be reported on the Form MH/MR 20.

During the past year the Office of Mental Retardation has also identified three additional family and client supports which may be funded under the auspices of family and client support services. These are (a) adaptive appliances, (b) home rehabilitation and (c) special diets.

The term, "adaptive appliances," refers to the provision of therapeutic equipment and special devices such as walkers, canes, prosthetics, etc., to enable retarded persons who are physically handicapped to be maintained at home and integrated into activities in the community.

"Home rehabilitation" refers to minor renovations to the home of a family to enable them to care for a retarded person in the home.

CONTINUED

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

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Health & Welfare Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120
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"Special diets" refer to assistance in the planning or preparation of meals for medically involved clients who require significant modification to a routine diet.

APPLICATION

For Fiscal Year 1984-85 and until further notice, transportation is not to be considered as a support service to be reported on the Form

20. Furthermore, effective immediately County Mental Retardation Programs may fund adaptive appliances, home rehabilitation and special diets under the auspices of family support services.

However, in regard to the expenditure of State funds for services such as "adaptive appliances", counties are cautioned that Section 503 of the MH/MR Act of 1966 requires that all other funding sources, e.g. Medicaid, for such services must be exhausted prior to the expenditure of State Community Mental Retardation funds for those services. In addition, counties continue to be subject to the provisions of the Title 6100 regulations in their expenditure of State funds for Community Mental Retardation services, including family support services. A county's consideration of the Title 6100 regulations would be particularly important prior to committing State funding for a service, such as home rehabilitation, which has been identified as a new family support service.

All other provisions of Mental Retardation Bulletin No. 99-83-24 remain in effect.

In addition, until further notice, counties are to continue using the Form MH/MR 20 to report expenditures for family and client support services. For Fiscal Year 1984-85 and ensuing years, the entire form, i.e., identifying information and all three sections (excluding the part on transportation), is to be completed. List under Special Innovative Services any support services for which there is no category on the form.

Counties are also to continue reporting data pertaining to family and client support services on the CCR Form MR 256 Part 1 as instructed in Mental Retardation Bulletin No. 99-83-24.