

Addendum SPC 108: Prevocational Services

Lakeland Care District (LCD) members receiving prevocational services shall have an identified outcome that necessitates the provision of prevocational services to support this outcome.

The provision of contracted, authorized, and provided Prevocational Services shall be in compliance with the provisions of this agreement and the service description and requirements of this section.

Definition

Prevocational services involve the provision of learning and work experiences where a member can develop general, non-job-task-specific strengths and skills that contribute to employability in paid employment in integrated, community settings. Services are expected to occur over a defined period of time as determined by the member and his/her care planning team in the ongoing member-centered planning process. Services are expected to specifically involve strategies that enhance a participant's employability in integrated, community settings. Competitive employment or supported employment are considered successful outcomes of prevocational services.

Prevocational services should enable each member to attain the highest possible wage and work which is in the most integrated setting and matched to the member's interests, strengths, priorities, abilities, and capabilities. Services are intended to develop and teach general skills that lead to employment including but not limited to: ability to communicate effectively with supervisors, co-workers and customers; generally accepted community workplace conduct and dress; ability to follow directions; ability to attend to tasks; workplace problem solving skills and strategies; general workplace safety and mobility training.

Support of employment outcomes is a part of the member-centered planning process, which includes the individual, his or her guardian if any, and other members of the interdisciplinary care planning team, and emphasizes informed consumer choice. This process includes identification of the member's personal outcomes and identification of services and items, including prevocational services and other employment-related services that advance achievement of the member's outcomes. The member and his or her interdisciplinary care planning team will identify alternatives that are effective in supporting his or her outcomes and from those select the most cost-effective alternative.

Members who receive prevocational services during some days or parts of days may also receive supported employment, educational, or day services at other times.

Members participating in prevocational services may be compensated in accordance with applicable Federal laws and regulations, but the provision of prevocational services is intended to lead to a permanent integrated employment situation.

Participation in prevocational services is not a required pre-requisite for supported employment services provided under the waiver. Prevocational services may be provided in a variety of community locations including but not limited to work centers operated by community rehabilitation programs (CRPs).

For more information, refer to the Technical Guidelines for Prevocational Services: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/LTCare/Partners/infoseries/ta10-04.pdf> and other technical assistance at: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/LTCare/ProgramOps/prevoc/index.htm>.

New entrant Members participating in prevocational service may be compensated in accordance with applicable Federal laws and regulations, but the provision of prevocational services is intended to lead to a permanent integrated employment situation. Members may also participate in prevocational services who do not express a desire to pursue integrated employment provided that the new entrant understand the purpose of the service authorization is to allow the new entrant to fully understand the option of integrated employment in order to make an informed choice about whether to pursue it.

Standards

Personnel

There shall be a direct service staff person or persons who shall possess skills and knowledge that typically would be acquired through:

- A course of study that would lead to a bachelor's degree in one of the human services, or
- A minimum of two years' experience in the work to be supervised.
- Staff or consultants knowledgeable in adapting or modifying equipment, and the application of special equipment for persons with disabilities shall be available as needed.

Staff to Member Ratio

Providers of prevocational services shall maintain the following staff ratios:

- There shall be at least 2 direct service staff for the first 15 people receiving prevocational services
- Ratio of staff to program participants shall reflect the needs of the individuals.

Program

Prevocational Services shall include remunerative work including supervision and instruction in work tasks and observance of safety principles including:

- ability to communicate effectively with supervisors, co-workers and customers;
- generally accepted community workplace conduct and dress;
- ability to follow directions;
- ability to attend to tasks;
- workplace problem solving skills and strategies;
- general workplace safety and mobility training
- tasks shall afford a work-pace consistent with the member's potential

Service Limitations/Exclusions

Prevocational services may be provided to supplement, but may not duplicate services being provided to a member as part of an approved Individualized Employment Plan (IEP) funded under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, or being provided to a member under an approved Individualized Education Plan (IEP) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Prevocational services may be provided to supplement, but may not duplicate services provided under supported employment or vocational futures planning and support services provided under the waiver.

Members participating in prevocational service may be compensated in accordance with applicable Federal laws and regulations, but the provision of prevocational services is intended to lead to a permanent integrated employment situation. Therefore, members participating in prevocational service may be involved in paid work if the following criteria are met:

- (a) The employer holds a valid sub-minimum wage certificate which covers the individual member;
- (b) The member's participation in paid work, as a component of a prevocational services program, is for the purpose of facilitating progress towards voluntary participation in a permanent, and at least part-time integrated employment situation.

Only activities that contribute to the member's work experience, work skills, or work-related knowledge can be included and reimbursed for under prevocational services if the member has an outcome of integrated employment. Prevocational providers that offer facility-based work are required to provide meaningful activities that contribute to a member's work experience, work skills, or work-related knowledge during downtime (i.e., the time when paid work is not available in the work center), if they claim prevocational services funding for supporting members during downtime.

Collaboration and Coordination of Care

Through the use of the Resource Allocation Decision method (RAD), the LCD Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) staff shall assess the member's needs and outcomes to determine the amount of prevocational services to be authorized. The IDT staff shall exchange pertinent information with the provider at the time the referral is made. This information exchange shall include the member's employment outcomes, assessed needs and amount of authorized units as it relates to prevocational services.

The goal of authorized prevocational services is participation in an integrated employment situation. In partnership with the LCD, prevocational service providers will promote and support opportunities for integrated employment outcomes for members. The LCD and prevocational service provider partners will identify and utilize strategies to support individuals to pursue and achieve their personally identified employment outcomes in ways that maximize community inclusion and integration, and that afford individuals the opportunity to earn at least minimum wage. The LCD IDT along with the prevocational service provider will collaborate in developing a plan of service which can facilitate the identification of important specifics regarding the member's integrated employment outcomes, preferences and conditions, and any concerns or hesitations regarding participation in integrated employment.

Documentation

A Prevocational Services Six-Month Status and Progress Report must be submitted to the member's assigned IDT staff twice a year, once at each 6 month MCP review. This report may be the State recommended report or a report agreed upon by the LCD and the provider. Minimally, a Prevocational Services Six-Month Status and Progress Report is required to address the following:

- Establish member's rate of pay and anticipated wages
- Identify member's interest, non-job-task strengths, priorities, abilities, and capabilities.
- Identify member's integrated employment outcome(s), including preferences and conditions
 - Description of the type of work the member wishes to do (i.e., work that is not a part of a prevocational services program)
 - Hours of work the member wishes to have on a daily or weekly basis.
 - Schedule of work the member wishes to have on a weekly basis.
 - Geographic preferences regarding where a member wishes to work
- If a member has not identified an integrated employment outcome, identify steps being taken to discover the member's integrated employment outcome(s), including any

member/guardian concerns or hesitations regarding participation in integrated employment

- Identify steps being taken to achieve member's integrated employment outcome(s) and submit an individualized plan for next 6 months
- Describe the general habilitation skills necessary for the member to obtain integrated employment and the specific activities the member will engage in to assist in developing and teaching these skills
- Outline the content and structure of the programs offered to the member during work center downtime and how these programs contribute to the member's work experience, work skills or work-related knowledge

Services must be reviewed every six months to determine if progress is being made and if prevocational services remain appropriate for authorization.

Billable Units

Providers should reference the Rates and Service Codes chart of the contract to determine the units indicated in this agreement. Units of Prevocational Services are billable for the time the member is authorized and attends Prevocational Services. Services are billable at contracted rates.

Providers should reference the Rates and Service Codes chart of the contract for contract units and rates. Providers should use ½ day, full day, or hourly increments to bill the LCD up to the authorized number of units for the member.

Prevocational Services are billable to a maximum of 8 hours per day. Providers billing for service units in excess of an 8 hour work day will only be reimbursed for 8 hours.

Providers of Prevocational Services are required to provide for all identified care needs during the provision of Prevocational programming and are specifically prohibited from billing for additional services during the provision of Prevocational Services.

Lakeland Care District's Contract Expectations for Prevocational Services Providers

- Additional units will not be authorized to provide supervision pre/post program hours. Supervision provided to members pre and post Prevocational program hours shall be included in the negotiated rate.
- Transportation between the individual's place of residence and the Prevocational Services site is not provided as a component of Prevocational services. The cost of this transportation is not included in the contracted rate. If the Prevocational provider also provides transportation LCD may negotiate a rate for that service (SPC 107).
- Provider will share with the Provider Network Team the criteria used to differentiate the levels of care within that facility.