

Procedure No. 2-6-35

Revised: 04-26-24

Issued: 11-17-17

SUBJECT: Community Access and Choice

PURPOSE: to ensure that the Individuals receiving services from Woodhaven have access to and enjoy the benefits of community living through long term services and supports in the most integrated setting of their choosing. To carry out the mandate of Program Service Policy #2

Community Resources: Woodhaven Program staff will ensure that the individuals supported receive services in the community to the same degree of person’s not receiving Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). They (and their guardian if applicable) will be educated on the options to access social, recreational, medical, or other services that apply in the community. Woodhaven staff will ensure that the individuals (and guardian if applicable) have the opportunity to make informed choices about where they get their services.

Access to the Community: Individuals supported by Woodhaven will be supported in making choices in accessing the community. These include: accessing services provided at local business, recreational opportunities, transportation options, local events, churches, service/civic organizations etc. Input will be obtained from the person supported at a minimum annually when completing their Functional Profile (2-6-10) and incorporated into their ISP. Individuals will be supported in fully accessing and becoming community members.

Once an individual identifies a desired activity, staff will work with the individual on what support is needed for them to attend. (i.e. money, transportation, assistance of staff/natural supports, accessibility of location etc.) Staff will help plan for the event to occur. For individuals who are non-verbal staff will offer a wide variety of opportunities in the community to help identify specific likes/dislikes. Staff will use communication devices/pictures etc. to enhance choice. They will track specific events that an individual seems to enjoy. This information will be maintained and included in the Functional Profile (2-6-10) and the Supported Living Plan (2-6-33)

External Advocacy: Individuals supported by Woodhaven will be encouraged and supported in becoming active with external advocacy sources of their choosing as required in DMH 9CSR 45-5.010(3)(C)2.B. Woodhaven sponsors the Action Club, which is an open group for those individuals with DD that focuses on rights and advocacy within the local community. Woodhaven also supports the People First advocacy group.

Choice of Setting: Woodhaven is committed to offering individuals supported a choice of setting. Refer to procedure 2-6-24 Admission Procedure for new referrals to the agency. If a current resident of Woodhaven indicates they want services at another location Program staff will assist them. Individuals are encouraged to express their concerns and ask questions regarding the services they receive. Efforts will be made to determine if the situation can be remedied by addressing a concern or problem. However, if that does not appear possible, the Service Coordinator will be notified and a meeting will be held to discuss options for movement either within or outside the agency depending on the individual (and guardians wishes if applicable.) The team will educate the individual on the costs associated with living in a different setting. For example individuals who prefer to live by themselves in an apartment setting will need to be educated on the expense of living alone vs the cost of sharing expenses when they have housemates to split costs with. This information will also be communicated to the guardian (if applicable) if the individual supported is not able to understand the cost implications.

Approved by: _____
Director of Residential & Community Services

Date: _____