

**Far Northern Regional Center
Home and Community-Based Services Waiver
Monitoring Review Report**

Conducted by:

**Department of Developmental Services
and
Department of Health Care Services**

June 20–30, 2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) conducted the federal compliance monitoring review of the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver from June 20, 2022 through June 30, 2022, at Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC). The monitoring team members were Nora Muir (Team Leader), Kelly Sandoval, Hope Beale, and Bonnie Simmons from DDS, and Deeanna Tran and Janie Hironaka from DHCS.

Purpose of the Review

DDS contracts with 21 private, non-profit corporations to operate regional centers, which are responsible under state law for coordinating, providing, arranging or purchasing all services needed for eligible individuals with developmental disabilities in California. All HCBS Waiver services are provided through this system. It is the responsibility of DDS to ensure, with the oversight of DHCS, that the HCBS Waiver is implemented by regional centers in accordance with Medicaid statute and regulations.

Overview of the HCBS Waiver Programmatic Compliance Monitoring Protocol

The compliance monitoring review protocol is comprised of sections/components designed to determine if the consumers' needs and program requirements are being met and that services are being provided in accordance with the consumers' individual program plans (IPP). Specific criteria have been developed for the review sections listed below that are derived from federal/state statutes and regulations and from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' directives and guidelines relating to the provision of HCBS Waiver services.

Scope of Review

The monitoring team reviewed a sample of 31 1915c HCBS Waiver consumers. In addition, the following supplemental sample consumer records were reviewed: 1) 10 consumers who had special incidents reported to DDS during the review period of March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022, and 2) one consumer who was enrolled in the HCBS Waiver during the review period.

The monitoring team completed visits to five community care facilities (CCF) and one day program. The team reviewed six CCF and one day program consumer records and interviewed and/or observed 17 selected sample consumers.

Overall Conclusion

FNRC is in substantial compliance with the federal requirements for the HCBS Waiver program. Specific recommendations that require follow-up actions by FNRC are included in the report findings. DDS is requesting documentation of follow-up actions taken by FNRC in response to each of the specific recommendations within 30 days following receipt of this report.

Major Findings

Section I – Regional Center Self-Assessment

The self-assessment responses indicated that FNRC has systems and procedures in place for implementing the state and HCBS Waiver requirements addressed in the self-assessment criteria.

Section II – Regional Center Consumer Record Review

Thirty-one sample consumer records were reviewed for 31 documentation requirements (criteria) derived from federal and state statutes and regulations and HCBS Waiver requirements. Four criteria were rated as not applicable for this review. The sample records were 99 percent in overall compliance for this review.

FNRC's records were 98 percent and 99 percent in overall compliance for the collaborative reviews conducted in 2020 and in 2018, respectively.

New Enrollees: One sample consumer was reviewed for level-of-care determination prior to receipt of HCBS Waiver services. FNRC's records were 100 percent in overall compliance for this review.

Section III – Community Care Facility Consumer Record Review

Six consumer records were reviewed at five CCFs for 19 documentation requirements (criteria) derived from Title 17, California Code of Regulations. The sample records were 100 percent in overall compliance for 19 criteria on this review.

FNRC's records were 100 percent in overall compliance for the collaborative reviews conducted in 2020 and in 2018.

Section IV – Day Program Consumer Record Review

One consumer record was reviewed at one day program for 17 documentation requirements (criteria) derived from Title 17, California Code of Regulations. The sample record was 100 percent in overall compliance for this review. Three criteria were not applicable for this review.

FNRC's records were 100 percent and 99 percent in overall compliance for the collaborative reviews conducted in 2020 and in 2018, respectively.

Section V – Consumer Observations and Interviews

Seventeen sample consumers, or in the case of minors, their parents, were interviewed and/or observed at their CCFs, day programs, or in independent living settings. The monitoring team observed that all of the consumers were in good health and were treated with dignity and respect.

Section VI A – Service Coordinator Interviews

Six service coordinators were interviewed using a standard interview instrument. The service coordinators responded to questions regarding their knowledge of the consumer, the IPP/annual review process, the monitoring of services, health issues, and safety. The service coordinators were very familiar with the consumers and knowledgeable about their roles and responsibilities.

Section VI B – Clinical Services Interview

The Director of Clinical Services was interviewed using a standard interview instrument. She responded to questions regarding the monitoring of consumers with medical issues, medications, behavior plans, the coordination of medical and mental health care for consumers, clinical supports to assist service coordinators, and the clinical team's role on the Risk Management and Mitigation Committee and special incident reporting.

Section VI C – Quality Assurance Interview

A Resource Development/Quality Assurance Specialist was interviewed using a standard interview instrument. He responded to questions regarding how FNRC is organized to conduct Title 17 monitoring reviews, verification of provider qualifications, resource development activities, special incident reporting, and QA activities where there is no regulatory requirement.

Section VII A – Service Provider Interviews

Four CCF and one day program service providers were interviewed using a standard interview instrument. The service providers responded to questions regarding their knowledge of the consumer, the annual review process, and the monitoring of health issues, medication administration, progress, safety and emergency preparedness. The staff was familiar with the consumers and knowledgeable about their roles and responsibilities.

Section VII B – Direct Service Staff Interviews

Four CCF and one day program direct service staff were interviewed using a standard interview instrument. The direct service staff responded to questions regarding their knowledge of consumers, the IPP, communication, service delivery, procedures for safety, emergency preparedness, and medications. The staff were familiar with the consumers and knowledgeable about their roles and responsibilities.

Section VIII – Vendor Standards Review

The monitoring team reviewed four CCFs and one day program utilizing a standard checklist with 23 criteria that are consistent with HCBS Waiver requirements. The reviewed CCFs and day program were in good repair with no immediate health or safety concerns observed.

Section IX – Special Incident Reporting

The monitoring team reviewed the records of the 31 HCBS Waiver consumers and 10 supplemental sample consumers for special incidents during the review period. FNRC reported all special incidents for the sample selected for the HCBS Waiver review.

For the supplemental sample, the service providers reported all applicable incidents to FNRC within the required timeframes, and FNRC subsequently transmitted all 10 special incidents to DDS within the required timeframes. FNRC's follow-up activities for the 10 consumer incidents were timely and appropriate for the severity of the situation.

SECTION I

REGIONAL CENTER SELF-ASSESSMENT

I. Purpose

The regional center self-assessment addresses the California Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver assurances criteria and is designed to provide information about the regional center's processes and practices. The responses are used to verify that the regional center has processes in place to ensure compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

The self-assessment obtains information about FNRC's procedures and practices to verify that there are processes in place to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and regulations as well as the assurances contained in the HCBS Waiver application approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

II. Scope of Assessment

FNRC is asked to respond to questions in four categories that correspond to the HCBS Waiver assurances with which the regional center is responsible for complying. The questions are shown at the end of this section.

III. Results of Assessment

The self-assessment responses indicate that FNRC has systems and procedures in place for implementing the state and HCBS Waiver requirements addressed in the self-assessment criteria.

✓ The full response to the self-assessment is available upon request.

Regional Center Self-Assessment HCBS Waiver Assurances	
HCBS Waiver Assurances	Regional Center Assurances
<p>State conducts level-of-care need determinations consistent with the need for institutionalization.</p>	<p>The regional center ensures that consumers meet ICF/DD, ICF/DD-H, or ICF/DD-N facility level-of-care requirements as a condition of initial and annual eligibility for the HCBS Waiver Program.</p> <p>Regional center ensures that the regional center staff responsible for certifying and recertifying consumers' HCBS Waiver eligibility meet the federal definition of a Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional (QIDP).</p> <p>The regional center ensures that consumers are eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal benefits before enrolling them in the HCBS Waiver.</p>
<p>Necessary safeguards have been taken to protect the health and welfare of persons receiving HCBS Waiver services.</p>	<p>The regional center takes action(s) to ensure consumers' rights are protected.</p> <p>The regional center takes action(s) to ensure that the consumers' health needs are addressed.</p> <p>The regional center ensures that behavior plans preserve the right of the consumer to be free from harm.</p> <p>The regional center maintains a Risk Management, Risk Assessment and Planning Committee.</p> <p>The regional center has developed and implemented a Risk Management/Mitigation Plan.</p> <p>Regional centers and local Community Care Licensing offices coordinate and collaborate in addressing issues involving licensing requirements and monitoring of CCFs pursuant to the MOU between DDS and Department of Social Services.</p> <p>The regional center has developed and implemented a quality assurance plan for Service Level 2, 3 and 4 community care facilities.</p> <p>The regional center reviews each community care facility annually to assure services are consistent with the program design and applicable laws and oversees development and implementation of corrective action plans as needed.</p> <p>The regional center conducts not less than two unannounced monitoring visits to each CCF annually.</p> <p>Service coordinators perform and document periodic reviews (at least annually) to ascertain progress toward achieving IPP objectives and the consumer's and the family's satisfaction with the IPP and its implementation.</p> <p>Service coordinators have quarterly face-to-face meetings with consumers in CCFs, family home agencies, supported living services, and independent living services to review services and progress toward achieving the IPP objectives for which the service provider is responsible.</p> <p>The regional center ensures that needed services and supports are in place when a consumer moves from a developmental center (DC) to a community living arrangement.</p>

Regional Center Self-Assessment HCBS Waiver Assurances	
HCBS Waiver Assurances	Regional Center Assurances
Necessary safeguards have been taken to protect the health and welfare of persons receiving HCBS Waiver services (cont.)	Service coordinators provide enhanced case management to consumers who move from a DC by meeting with them face-to-face every 30 days for the first 90 days they reside in the community.
Only qualified providers serve HCBS Waiver participants.	The regional center ensures that all HCBS Waiver service providers have signed the "HCBS Provider Agreement Form" and meet the required qualifications at the time services are provided.
Plans of care are responsive to HCBS Waiver participant needs.	<p>The regional center ensures that all HCBS Waiver consumers are offered a choice between receiving services and living arrangements in an institutional or community setting.</p> <p>Regional centers ensure that planning for IPPs includes a comprehensive assessment and information-gathering process which addresses the total needs of HCBS Waiver consumers and is completed at least every three years at the time of his/her triennial IPP.</p> <p>The IPPs of HCBS Waiver consumers are reviewed at least annually by the planning team and modified, as necessary, in response to the consumers' changing needs, wants and health status.</p> <p>The regional center uses feedback from consumers, families and legal representatives to improve system performance.</p> <p>The regional center documents the manner by which consumers indicate choice and consent.</p>

SECTION II

REGIONAL CENTER CONSUMER RECORD REVIEW

I. Purpose

The review is based upon documentation criteria derived from federal/state statutes and regulations and from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' directives and guidelines relating to the provision of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver services. The criteria address requirements for eligibility, consumer choice, notification of proposed action and fair hearing rights, level of care, individual program plans (IPP) and periodic reviews and reevaluations of services. The information obtained about the consumer's needs and services is tracked as a part of the onsite program reviews.

II. Scope of Review

1. Thirty-one HCBS Waiver consumer records were selected for the review sample.

Living Arrangement	# of Consumers
Community Care Facility (CCF)	10
With Family	5
Independent or Supported Living Setting	16

2. The review period covered activity from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022.

III. Results of Review

The 31 sample consumer records were reviewed for 31 documentation requirements derived from federal and state statutes and regulations and HCBS Waiver requirements. Additionally, one supplemental record was reviewed for documentation that FNRC determined the level of care prior to receipt of HCBS Waiver services.

- ✓ The sample records were 100 percent in compliance for 23 criteria. There are no recommendations for these criteria. Four criteria were not applicable for this review.
- ✓ Findings for four criteria are detailed below.

A summary of the results of the review is shown in the table at the end of this section.

IV. Findings and Recommendations

2.7.a The IPP is signed, prior to its implementation, by an authorized representative of the regional center and the consumer, or where appropriate, his/her parents, legal guardian, or conservator. [W&I Code §4646(g)]

Finding

Thirty of the thirty-one (97 percent) sample consumer records contained IPPs that were signed by FNRC and the consumers or their legal representatives. However, the IPP for consumer #30 was not signed by the consumer’s parent. During the monitoring review, the IPP for consumer #30 was signed by the parent. Accordingly, no recommendation is required.

2.10.a The IPP includes a schedule of the type and amount of all services and supports purchased by the regional center. [W&I Code §4646.5(a)(4)]

Finding

Thirty of the thirty-one (97 percent) sample consumer IPPs included a schedule of the type and amount of all services and supports purchased by FNRC. However, the IPP for consumer #28 did not indicate the FNRC funded service “Housing Service..” An addendum dated January 31, 2022, was done adding the service. Accordingly, no recommendation is required.

2.13.a Quarterly face-to-face meetings are completed for consumers living in community out-of-home settings, i.e., Service Level 2, 3 or 4 community care facilities, family home agencies or supported living and independent living settings. (Title 17, CCR, §56047, Title 17, CCR, §56095, Title 17, CCR, §58680, Contract requirement)

Finding

Twenty-five of the twenty-six (96 percent) applicable sample consumer records had quarterly face-to-face meetings completed and documented. However, the record for consumer #5 contained documentation of three of the required meetings.

2.13.a Recommendations	Regional Center Plan/Response
FNRC should ensure that all future face-to-face meetings are completed and documented each quarter for consumer #5.	<p><u>Correction:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SC for client #5 has been trained and directed to adhere to the timeline and documentation policies and FNRC’s expectations for meeting with and subsequent

	<p>SANDIS ID note documentation of each client meeting date, location, participants and purpose - for all clients living in community out of home settings.</p> <p><u>Actions Taken:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written training & 1:1 review of omitted meeting documentation along with specific policy references were provided to the specific SC on 7/2022. MW Trainings for all Case Management were provided on 7/22/22 & again on 10/21/2022 citing the purpose and the importance of holding and documenting quarterly meetings with all clients who live in out of home settings. <p><u>New and Continued Practices:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MW Team utilized ongoing monthly tracking mechanism to document any missed quarterly review meetings and/or reports by an SC.• Written Information for each missed mandated quarterly review meeting and/or report is provided to the SC and their supervisor after the Team's annual review of each client case for MW recertification.• Compilation of tracked information submitted to all case management supervisors, the FNRC Associate Directors of Case Management and to FNRC's Executive Director on a quarterly basis.• The compiled information will be used by management to determine if and when individual SC training is warranted. <p><u>Future Actions Planned:</u></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive mandatory training within 6 weeks to all case management on policies, protocol, and the purpose of holding and documenting quarterly review meetings for all clients who live in out of home settings. • Focused small group trainings in will be held on 1/20/23 & 4/21/23 in a setting that is geared more toward creating dialogue and encourages questions from the SC's and their supervisors.
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2.13.b Quarterly reports of progress are completed for consumers living in community out-of-home settings, i.e., Service Level 2, 3 or 4 community care facilities, family home agencies or supported living and independent living settings. *(Title 17, CCR, §56047, Title 17, CCR, §56095, Title 17, CCR, §58680, Contract requirement)*

Finding

Twenty-five of the twenty-six (96 percent) applicable sample consumer records had quarterly reports of progress completed for consumers living in community out-of-home settings. However, the record for consumer #5 contained documentation of only three of the required quarterly reports of progress.

2.13.b Recommendations	Regional Center Plan/Response
FNRC should ensure that future quarterly reports of progress are completed for consumer #5.	<p><u>Correction:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SC for client #5 has been trained and directed to adhere to the timeline policy and FNRC's expectations for meeting with and completing written quarterly reports of progress for all clients living in community out of home settings. <p><u>Actions Taken:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written training & 1:1 review of omitted meeting documentation along with specific policy references were provided to the

	<p>specific SC in 7/2022. MW Trainings for all Case Management were provided on 7/22/22 & again on 10/21/2022 citing the purpose and the importance of holding quarterly meetings and writing subsequent meeting reports within 14 days of the meeting for all clients who live in out of home settings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MW Team utilized an ongoing monthly tracking mechanism to document any missed quarterly review meetings and/or reports by an SC.• Written Information for each missed mandated quarterly review meeting and/or report is provided to the SC and their supervisor after the Team's annual review of each client's case for MW recertification.• A compilation of tracked information is submitted to all case management supervisors, the FNRC Associate Directors of Case Management and to FNRC's Executive Director on a quarterly basis.• The compiled information will be used by management to determine if and when individual SC training is warranted.• MW Team developed and implemented a plan to notify Case Management Supervisors three weeks in advance of each MW Training to facilitate requests for any specific SC's to receive a direct invitation to the noted MW training. <p><u>Future Actions Planned:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comprehensive mandatory training within 6 weeks to all case management on policies,
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	<p>protocol, and the purpose of holding and documenting quarterly review meetings for all clients who live in out of home settings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focused small group trainings will be held on 1/20/23 & 4/21/23 in a setting that is geared more toward creating dialogue and encourages questions from the SC's and their supervisors.
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Regional Center Consumer Record Review Summary						
Sample Size = 31						
	Criteria	+	-	N/A	% Met	Follow-up
2.0	The consumer is Medi-Cal eligible. <i>(SMM 4442.1)</i>	31			100	
2.1	Each record contains a Medicaid Waiver Eligibility Record (DS 3770), signed by a Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional (QIDP), which documents the date of the consumer's initial HCBS Waiver eligibility certification, annual recertifications, the consumer's qualifying conditions and short-term absences. <i>[SMM 4442.1; 42 CFR 483.430(a)]</i>	Criterion 2.1 consists of four sub-criteria (2.1.a-d) that are reviewed and rated independently.				
2.1.a	The DS 3770 is signed by a Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional and the title "QIDP" appears after the person's signature.	31			100	None
2.1.b	The DS 3770 form identifies the consumer's qualifying conditions and any applicable special health care requirements for meeting the Title 22 level-of-care requirements.	31			100	None
2.1.c	The DS 3770 form documents annual recertifications.	31			100	None
2.1.d	The DS 3770 documents short-term absences of 120 days or less, if applicable.			31	NA	None
2.2	Each record contains a dated and signed Medicaid Waiver Consumer Choice of Services/Living Arrangements form, (DS 2200). <i>[SMM 4442.7; 42 CFR 441.302(d)]</i>	31			100	None
2.3	There is a written notification of a proposed action and documentation that the consumer has been sent written notice of their fair hearing rights whenever choice of living arrangements is not offered, services or choice of services are denied, the consumer/parent/legal guardian or legal representative does not agree with all or part of the components in the consumer's IPP, or the consumer's HCBS Waiver eligibility has been terminated. <i>[SMM 4442.7; 42 CFR Part 431, Subpart E; W&I Code §4710(a)(1)]</i>			31	NA	None

Regional Center Consumer Record Review Summary						
Sample Size = 31						
	Criteria	+	-	N/A	% Met	Follow-up
2.4	Each record contains a current Client Development Evaluation Report (CDER) that has been reviewed within the last 12 months. <i>(SMM 4442.5; 42 CFR 441.302)</i>	31			100	None
2.5.a	The consumer's qualifying conditions and any special health care requirements used to meet the level of care requirements for care provided in an ICF/DD, ICF/DD-H, and ICF/DD-N facility are documented in the consumer's CDER and other assessments. <i>[SMM 4442.5; 42 CFR 441.302(c); Title 22, CCR, §51343]</i>	31			100	None
2.5.b	The consumer's qualifying conditions documented in the CDER are consistent with information contained in the consumer's record.	31			100	None
2.6.a	IPP is reviewed (at least annually) by the planning team and modified as necessary in response to the consumer's changing needs, wants or health status. <i>[42 CFR 441.301(b)(1)(I)]</i>	31			100	None
2.6.b	The HCBS Waiver Standardized Annual Review Form is completed and signed annually by the planning team to document whether or not a change to the existing IPP is necessary, and health status and CDER have been reviewed. <i>(HCBS Waiver requirement)</i>			31	NA	None
2.7.a	The IPP is signed, prior to its implementation, by an authorized representative of the regional center and the consumer, or where appropriate, his/her parents or legal guardian or conservator. <i>[W&I Code §4646(g)]</i>	30	1		97	See Narrative
2.7.b	IPP addenda are signed by an authorized representative of the regional center and the consumer, or where appropriate, his/her parents, legal guardian, or conservator.	17		14	100	None
2.7.c	The IPP is prepared jointly with the planning team. <i>[W&I Code §4646(d)]</i>	31			100	None
2.8	The IPP includes a statement of goals based on the needs, preferences and life choices of the consumer. <i>[W&I Code §4646.5(a)]</i>	31			100	None

Regional Center Consumer Record Review Summary						
Sample Size = 31						
	Criteria	+	-	N/A	% Met	Follow-up
2.9	The IPP addresses the consumer's goals and needs. [W&I Code §4646.5(a)(2)]	Criterion 2.9 consists of seven sub-criteria (2.9.a-g) that are reviewed independently.				
2.9.a	The IPP addresses the qualifying conditions identified in the CDER and Medicaid Waiver Eligibility Record (DS 3770).	31			100	None
2.9.b	The IPP addresses special health care requirements.	1		30	100	None
2.9.c	The IPP addresses the services which the CCF provider is responsible for implementing.	10		21	100	None
2.9.d	The IPP addresses the services which the day program provider is responsible for implementing.	16		15	100	None
2.9.e	The IPP addresses the services which the supported living services agency or independent living services provider is responsible for implementing.	16		15	100	None
2.9.f	The IPP addresses the consumer's goals, preferences and life choices.	31			100	None
2.9.g	The IPP includes a family plan component if the consumer is a minor. [W&I Code §4685(c)(2)]	2		29	100	None
2.10.a	The IPP includes a schedule of the type and amount of all services and supports purchased by the regional center. [W&I Code §4646.5(a)(4)]	30	1		97	See Narrative
2.10.b	The IPP includes a schedule of the type and amount of all services and supports obtained from generic agencies or other resources. [W&I Code §4646.5(a)(5)]	31			100	None
2.10.c	The IPP specifies the approximate scheduled start date for the new services. [W&I Code §4646.5(a)(5)]	17		14	100	None
2.11	The IPP identifies the provider or providers of service responsible for implementing services, including but not limited to vendors, contract providers, generic service agencies and natural supports. [W&I Code §4646.5(a)(5)]	31			100	None

Regional Center Consumer Record Review Summary						
Sample Size = 31						
	Criteria	+	-	N/A	% Met	Follow-up
2.12	Periodic reviews and reevaluations of consumer progress are completed (at least annually) to ascertain that planned services have been provided, that consumer progress has been achieved within the time specified, and the consumer and his/her family are satisfied with the IPP and its implementation. <i>[W&I Code §4646.5(a)(8)]</i>	31			100	None
2.13.a	Quarterly face-to-face meetings are completed for consumers living in community out-of-home settings, i.e., Service Level 2, 3 or 4 community care facilities, family home agencies or supported living and independent living settings. <i>(Title 17, CCR, §56047; Title 17, CCR, §56095; Title 17, CCR, §58680; Contract requirement)</i>	25	1	5	96	See Narrative
2.13.b	Quarterly reports of progress are completed for consumers living in community out-of-home settings, i.e., Service Level 2, 3 or 4 community care facilities, family home agencies or supported living and independent living settings. <i>(Title 17, CCR, §56047; Title 17, CCR, §56095; Title 17, CCR, §58680; Contract requirement)</i>	25	1	5	96	See Narrative
2.14	Face-to-face reviews are completed no less than once every 30 days for the first 90 days following the consumer's move from a developmental center to a community living arrangement. <i>(W&I Code §4418.3)</i>			31	NA	None

SECTION III

COMMUNITY CARE FACILITY CONSUMER RECORD REVIEW

I. Purpose

The review addresses the requirements for community care facilities (CCF) to maintain consumer records and prepare written reports of consumer progress in relation to the services addressed in the individual program plan (IPP) for which the facility is responsible. The criteria are derived from Title 17, California Code of Regulations.

II. Scope of Review

Six consumer records were reviewed at five CCFs visited by the monitoring team. The facilities' consumer records were reviewed to determine compliance with 19 criteria.

III. Results of Review

- ✓ The sample records were 100 percent in compliance for 19 applicable criteria. There are no recommendations for these criteria.
- ✓ A summary of the results of the review is shown in the table at the end of this section.

IV. Findings and Recommendations

None

Community Care Facility Record Review Summary						
Sample Size: Consumers = 6; CCFs = 5						
	Criteria	+	-	N/A	% Met	Follow-up
3.1	An individual consumer file is maintained by the CCF that includes the documents and information specified in Title 17 and Title 22. <i>[Title 17, CCR, §56017(b); Title 17, CCR §56059(b); Title 22, CCR, §80069]</i>	6			100	None
3.1.a	The consumer record contains a statement of ambulatory or nonambulatory status.	6			100	None
3.1.b	The consumer record contains known information related to any history of aggressive or dangerous behavior toward self or others.	6			100	None
3.1.c	The consumer record contains current health information that includes medical, dental and other health needs of the consumer including annual visit dates, physicians' orders, medications, allergies, and other relevant information.	6			100	None
3.1.d	The consumer record contains current emergency information: family, physician, pharmacy, etc.	6			100	None
3.1.e	The consumer record contains a recent photograph and a physical description of the consumer.	6			100	None
3.1.i	Special safety and behavior needs are addressed.	4		2	100	None
3.2	The consumer record contains a written admission agreement completed for the consumer that includes the certifying statements specified in Title 17 and is signed by the consumer or his/her authorized representative, the regional center and the facility administrator. <i>[Title 17, CCR, §56019(c)(1)]</i>	6			100	None
3.3	The facility has a copy of the consumer's current IPP. <i>[Title 17, CCR, §56022(c)]</i>	6			100	None

Community Care Facility Record Review Summary						
Sample Size: Consumers = 5; CCFs = 5						
	Criteria	+	-	N/A	% Met	Follow-up
3.4.a	Service Level 2 and 3 facilities prepare and maintain written semiannual reports of consumer progress. <i>[Title 17, CCR, §56026(b)]</i>	2		4	100	None
3.4.b	Semiannual reports address and confirm the consumer's progress toward achieving each of the IPP objectives for which the facility is responsible.	2		4	100	None
3.5.a	Service Level 4 facilities prepare and maintain written quarterly reports of consumer progress. <i>[Title 17, CCR, §56026(c)]</i>	4		2	100	None
3.5.b	Quarterly reports address and confirm the consumer's progress toward achieving each of the IPP objectives for which the facility is responsible.	4		2	100	None
3.5.c	Quarterly reports include a summary of data collected. <i>[Title 17, CCR, §56013(d)(4); Title 17, CCR, §56026]</i>	4		2	100	None
3.6.a	The facility prepares and maintains ongoing, written consumer notes, as required by Title 17. <i>[Title 17, CCR, §56026(a)]</i>	6			100	None
3.6.b	The ongoing notes/information verify that behavior needs are being addressed.	4		2	100	None
3.7.a	Special incidents are reported to the regional center within 24 hours after learning of the occurrence of the special incident. <i>(Title 17, CCR, §54327)</i>	1		5	100	None
3.7.b	A written report of the special incident is submitted to the regional center within 48 hours after the occurrence of the special incident. <i>(Title 17, CCR, §54327)</i>	1		5	100	None
3.7.c	Follow-up activities were undertaken to prevent, reduce or mitigate future danger to the consumer. <i>(Title 17, CCR, §54327)</i>	1		5	100	None

SECTION IV

DAY PROGRAM CONSUMER RECORD REVIEW

I. Purpose

The review criteria address the requirements for day programs to maintain consumer records and prepare written reports of consumer progress in relation to the services addressed in the individual program plan (IPP) that the day program provider is responsible for implementing. The criteria are derived from Title 17, California Code of Regulations.

II. Scope of Review

One consumer record was reviewed at one day program visited by the monitoring team. The records were reviewed to determine compliance with 17 criteria.

III. Results of Review

The consumer record was 100 percent in compliance for 11 criteria. Three criteria were rated as not applicable for this review.

- ✓ A summary of the results of the review is shown in the table at the end of this section.

IV. Findings and Recommendations

None

Day Program Record Review Summary						
Sample Size: Consumers = 1; Day Programs = 1						
	Criteria	+	-	N/A	% Met	Follow-up
4.1	An individual consumer file is maintained by the day program that includes the documents and information specified in Title 17. (Title 17, CCR, §56730)	1			100	None
4.1.a	The consumer record contains current emergency and personal identification information including the consumer's address, telephone number; names and telephone numbers of residential care provider, relatives, and/or guardian or conservator; physician name(s) and telephone number(s); pharmacy name, address and telephone number; and health plan, if appropriate.	1			100	None
4.1.b	The consumer record contains current health information that includes current medications, known allergies; medical disabilities; infectious, contagious, or communicable conditions; special nutritional needs; and immunization records.	1			100	None
4.1.c	The consumer record contains any medical, psychological, and social evaluations identifying the consumer's abilities and functioning level, provided by the regional center.	1			100	None
4.1.d	The consumer record contains an authorization for emergency medical treatment signed by the consumer and/or the authorized consumer representative.	1			100	None
4.1.e	The consumer record contains documentation that the consumer and/or the authorized consumer representative has been informed of his/her personal rights.	1			100	None
4.1.f	Data is collected that measures consumer progress in relation to the services addressed in the IPP which the day program provider is responsible for implementing.	1			100	None
4.1.g	The consumer record contains up-to-date case notes reflecting important events or information not documented elsewhere.	1			100	None

Day Program Record Review Summary						
Sample Size: Consumers = 1; Day Programs = 1						
	Criteria	+	-	N/A	% Met	Follow-up
4.1.h	The consumer record contains documentation that special safety and behavior needs are being addressed.	1			100	None
4.2	The day program has a copy of the consumer's current IPP. <i>[Title 17, CCR, §56720(b)]</i>	1			100	None
4.3.a	The day program provider develops, maintains, and modifies as necessary, documentation regarding the manner in which it implements the services addressed in the IPP. <i>[Title 17, CCR, §56720(a)]</i>	1			100	None
4.3.b	The day program's individual service plan or other program documentation is consistent with the services addressed in the consumer's IPP.	1			100	None
4.4.a	The day program prepares and maintains written semiannual reports. <i>[Title 17, CCR, §56720(c)]</i>	1			100	None
4.4.b	Semiannual reports address the consumer's performance and progress relating to the services which the day program is responsible for implementing.	1			100	None
4.5.a	Special incidents are reported to the regional center within 24 hours after learning of the occurrence of the special incident. <i>(Title 17, CCR, §54327)</i>			1	NA	None
4.5.b	A written report of the special incident is submitted to the regional center within 48 hours after the occurrence of the special incident. <i>(Title 17, CCR, §54327)</i>			1	NA	None
4.5.c	There is appropriate follow-up to special incidents to resolve issue and eliminate or mitigate future risk. <i>(Title 17, CCR, §54327)</i>			1	NA	None

SECTION V

CONSUMER OBSERVATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

I. Purpose

The consumer observations are conducted to verify that the consumers appear to be healthy and have good hygiene. Interview questions focus on the consumers' satisfaction with their living situation, day program, work activities, health, choices, and regional center services.

II. Scope of Observations and Interviews

Seventeen of the thirty-one consumers, or in the case of minors, their parents, were interviewed and/or observed at their day programs, employment sites, community care facilities (CCF), or in independent living settings.

- ✓ Thirteen consumers agreed to be interviewed by the monitoring teams.
- ✓ Four consumers did not communicate verbally or declined an interview but were observed.
- ✓ No interviews were conducted with parents of minors.
- ✓ Fourteen consumers were unavailable for or declined interviews.

III. Results of Observations and Interviews

All consumers indicated satisfaction with their living situation, day program, work activities, health, choices, and regional center services. The appearance for all of the consumers who were interviewed and observed reflected personal choice and individual style.

IV. Finding and Recommendation

None

SECTION VI A

SERVICE COORDINATOR INTERVIEWS

I. Purpose

The interviews determine how well the service coordinators know their consumers, the extent of their participation in the individual program plan (IPP)/annual review process, and how they monitor services, health and safety issues.

II. Scope of Interviews

1. The monitoring team interviewed six FNRC service coordinators.
2. The interview questions are divided into two categories.
 - ✓ The questions in the first category are related to the consumers selected by the monitoring team.
 - ✓ The questions in the second category are related to general areas.

III. Results of Interviews

1. The service coordinators were very familiar with their respective consumers. They were able to relate specific details regarding the consumers' desires, preferences, life circumstances and service needs.
2. The service coordinators were knowledgeable about the IPP/annual review process and monitoring requirements. Service providers and family members provided input on the consumers' needs, preferences and satisfaction with services outlined in the IPP. For consumers in out-of-home placement settings, service coordinators conduct quarterly face-to-face visits and develop written assessments of consumer progress and satisfaction. In preparation for the quarterly visits, service coordinators review their previous progress reports, pertinent case notes, special incident reports, and vendor reports of progress.
3. To better understand issues related to consumers' use of medication and issues related to side effects, the service coordinators utilize FNRC's medical director and online resources for medication.

4. The service coordinators monitor the consumers' services, health and safety during periodic visits. They are aware of the consumers' health issues. The service coordinators are knowledgeable about the special incident reporting process and work with the vendors to ensure all special incidents are reported and appropriate follow-up activities are completed.

SECTION VI B

CLINICAL SERVICES INTERVIEW

I. Purpose

The clinical services interview is used to obtain supplemental information on how the regional center is organized to provide clinical support to consumers and service coordinators. This interview aids in determining what measures the regional center is utilizing to ensure the ongoing health and safety of all Home and Community-Based Services Waiver consumers.

II. Scope of Interview

1. The questions in the interview cover the following topics: routine monitoring of consumers with medical issues, medications and behavior plans; coordination of medical and mental health care for consumers; circumstances under which actions are initiated for medical or behavior issues; clinical supports to assist service coordinators; improved access to preventive health care resources; role in the Risk Management Assessment and Planning Committee and Special Incident Reports (SIR).
2. The monitoring team interviewed the Director of Clinical Services at FNRC.

III. Results of Interview

The clinical division at FNRC is comprised of a medical director, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, registered nurses, and a psychologist.

The clinical division functions as a resource for the service coordinators and is available to assess consumers with medical and medication concerns. Regional center nurses and service coordinators actively participate in consumers' health care through case reviews, placement and eligibility committees, and community multi-disciplinary teams. The nurses also perform assessments, review specialized health care plans and visit hospitalized consumers and assist in discharge planning. FNRC nurses are available to review consumers' medications and provide medication management training as requested. The regional center physician and psychologist are involved with other specialists in conducting evaluations to determine regional center diagnosis.

FNRC provides training to service coordinators; recent topics have included SIRs, interviewing skills, maladaptive sexual behavior education, personality disorders, trisomy 21, assistive technology, restricted healthcare plans, and stress management. FNRC is currently developing Zoom meetings covering a variety of topics including: nutrition, hospital advocacy, education, and mental health which will serve as a source for additional information for service coordinators and service providers. Vendor training has included medications, SIRs, review of COVID-19 guidelines and other health-related topics.

The regional center psychologist and case management staff participate with local mental health agencies for consumer case review. FNRC also utilizes North Valley Services, a residential stabilization home for consumers in transition with mental health issues and/or severe behaviors. In addition, FNRC utilizes Remi Vista, a residential stabilization home for children with mental health concerns. FNRC collaborates with Turning Point, which provides psychiatric services for individuals who are dually diagnosed. Monitoring of consumers' mental health/psychiatric medications is done by telepsychiatry clinics and through contracts with local providers. Behavior plans are reviewed by the psychologist.

The regional center has improved access to preventative health care resources. Some examples include:

- ✓ Assistance for consumers without medical insurance;
- ✓ Contracts for telepsychiatry services;
- ✓ Contracts for home health nursing evaluations;
- ✓ Vendors for autism, psychiatry, behavior, nutrition, optometry, and dental services;
- ✓ Vendors for occupational, physical, and speech therapy services;
- ✓ Abuse prevention programs and risk awareness campaign offered by We Care A Lot Foundation;
- ✓ Family Health Clinics;
- ✓ Federally qualified health center;
- ✓ Indian Rural Health Clinics (dental, psychiatric); and,
Community Crisis Home.

Members of the regional center clinical team are involved in FNRC's Risk Management Assessment and Planning Committee. The committee reviews & analyzes medical and mental health SIRs to assess needed action and to reduce future risk. The regional center utilizes Mission Analytics Group, Inc., the State's risk management contractor, to analyze special incidents for trends. The medical director and a registered nurse participate on the mortality review committee and review all death-related SIRs.

SECTION VI C

QUALITY ASSURANCE INTERVIEW

I. Purpose

The interview with quality assurance (QA) staff ascertains how the regional center has organized itself to conduct Title 17 monitoring of community care facilities (CCF), two unannounced visits to CCFs, and service provider training. The interview also inquires about verification of provider qualifications, resource development activities, and QA among programs and providers where there is no regulatory requirement to conduct QA monitoring.

II. Scope of Interview

The monitoring team interviewed a Resource Development/Quality Assurance Specialist who is part of the team responsible for conducting FNRC's QA activities.

III. Results of Interview

1. The annual Title 17 visits are conducted by service coordinators (SC) who function as facility liaisons to the CCFs. They also conduct a minimum of two unannounced visits annually. These visits were mostly done virtually, but in-person visits have been increasing. When substantial inadequacies are identified, they report these inadequacies to the risk management specialist (RMS) who then reviews the information and writes the corrective action plan (CAP). A CAP is issued by the RMS who then directs the SC in the required follow-up activities. In addition, the RMS will issue a sanction when appropriate. All CAPs and sanctions are reviewed ongoing by the RMS and shared with the community services team, and FNRC staff.
2. The SC and RMS receive all Special Incident Reports (SIR). The RMS reviews all SIRs for accuracy and completes all follow-up for the DDS reportable incidents by contacting both the SC and the vendor to obtain the necessary follow-up information needed to close the SIR. The RMS reviews all SIRs and analyzes data to identify trends. The RMS participates on the Risk Management Assessment and Planning Committee which reviews trends and data to identify where further assistance and training may be required.
3. FNRC conducts unannounced visits with specific day programs who have been identified in SIR trends as needing further quality assurance assistance. Supported Living Service (SLS) programs are each assigned a liaison from case management. The liaison meets with each SLS vendor monthly to review all quality assurance trends that have been identified. FNRC has

implemented the use of the Therap system which allows both FNRC and their vendor to centralize their quality assurance data into the system and create a general event report (GER). The GER can be reviewed and reconciled by both parties in the Therap system. FNRC contracts with a pharmacy to conduct bi-annual in-person medication trainings for all vendors. In addition, FNRC nurses conduct two vendor medication trainings a year. FNRC nurses are also available to conduct other trainings to support quality assurance standards as needed. These trainings are open to all vendors and are a requirement for vendors under a CAP.

SECTION VII A

SERVICE PROVIDER INTERVIEWS

I. Purpose

The interviews determine how well the service provider knows the consumers; the extent of their assessment process for the individual program plan (IPP) development and/or review; the extent of their plan participation; how the plan was developed; how service providers ensure accurate documentation, communicate, address and monitor health issues; their preparedness for emergencies; and how they monitor safety and safeguard medications.

II. Scope of Interviews

1. The monitoring team interviewed four CCF and one day program service providers where services are provided to the consumers who were visited by the monitoring team.
2. The interview questions are divided into two categories.
 - ✓ The questions in the first category are related to sample consumers selected by the monitoring team.
 - ✓ The questions in the second category are related to general areas.

III. Results of Interviews

1. The service providers were familiar with the strengths, needs and preferences of their consumer.
2. The service providers indicated that they conducted assessments of the consumer, participated in their IPP development, provided the program-specific services addressed in the IPPs and attempted to foster the progress of their consumer.
3. The service providers monitored the consumer's health issues and safeguarded medications.
4. The service providers communicated with people involved in the consumer's life and monitored progress.

The service providers were prepared for emergencies, monitored the safety of the consumer, and understood special incident reporting and follow-up processes.

SECTION VII B

DIRECT SERVICE STAFF INTERVIEWS

I. Purpose

The interviews determine how well the direct service staff know the consumers and their understanding of the individual program plan (IPP) and service delivery requirements, how they communicate, their level of preparedness to address safety issues, their understanding of emergency preparedness, and their knowledge about safeguarding medications.

II. Scope of Interviews

1. The monitoring team interviewed four CCF and one day program direct service staff where services are provided to the consumers that were visited by the monitoring team.
2. The interview questions are divided into two categories:
 - ✓ The questions in the first category are related to sample consumers selected by the monitoring team.
 - ✓ The questions in the second category are related to general areas.

III. Results of Interviews

1. The direct service staff were familiar with the strengths, needs and preferences of their consumer.
2. The direct service staff were knowledgeable about their roles and responsibilities for providing the services addressed in the consumer's IPP.
3. The direct service staff demonstrated that they understood the importance of communication with all individuals concerned with the consumer.
4. The direct service staff were prepared to address safety issues and emergencies and were familiar with special incident reporting requirements.
5. The direct service staff demonstrated an understanding about emergency preparedness.

The direct service staff were knowledgeable regarding safeguarding and assisting with self-administration of medications where applicable.

SECTION VIII

VENDOR STANDARDS REVIEW

I. Purpose

The review ensures that the selected community care facilities (CCF) and day programs are serving consumers in a safe, healthy and positive environment where their rights are respected. The review also ensures that CCFs are meeting the HCBS Waiver definition of a homelike setting.

II. Scope of Review

1. The monitoring teams reviewed a total of four CCFs and one day program.
2. The teams used a monitoring review checklist consisting of 24 criteria. The review criteria are used to assess the physical environment, health and safety, medications, services and staff, consumers' rights, and the handling of consumers' money.

III. Results of Review

All of the CCFs and the day programs were found to be in good condition with no immediate health and safety concerns. Specific findings and recommendations are detailed below.

IV. Findings and Recommendations

8.1.g Appropriate Storage

At CCF #3, there was a hammer and a container of lighter fluid accessible to the consumers.

8.3.g Recommendation	Regional Center Plan/Response
FNRC should ensure that the providers at CCF #3 store all chemicals and hazardous items in a locked storage.	<p><u>Correction:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCF #3 administrator immediately counseled, and items were moved and stored in a locked cabinet at the time of discovery. <p><u>Actions Taken:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FNRC conducted subsequent onsite home monitoring review 12/7/2022 – where all chemicals and hazardous items were stored appropriately.

	<p><u>Continued & Future Practices:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FNRC will continue to conduct onsite reviews to ensure appropriate storage practices continue in all residential facilities.
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8.3.c First Aid

At CCF #2, one first aid certificate was expired. However, CCF #2 provided a current first aid certificate the following day. Accordingly, no recommendation is required.

SECTION IX

SPECIAL INCIDENT REPORTING

I. Purpose

The review verifies that special incidents have been reported within the required timeframes, that documentation meets the requirements of Title 17, California Code of Regulations, and that the follow-up was complete.

II. Scope of Review

1. Special incident reporting of deaths by FNRC was reviewed by comparing deaths entered into the Client Master File for the review period with special incident reports (SIR) of deaths received by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).
2. The records of the 31 consumers selected for the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver sample were reviewed to determine that all required special incidents were reported to DDS during the review period.
3. A supplemental sample of 10 consumers who had special incidents reported to DDS within the review period was assessed for timeliness of reporting and documentation of follow-up activities. The follow-up activities were assessed for being timely, appropriate to the situation, resulting in an outcome that ensures the consumer is protected from adverse consequences, and that risks are either minimized or eliminated.

III. Results of Review

1. FNRC reported all deaths during the review period to DDS.
2. FNRC reported all special incidents in the sample of 31 records selected for the HCBS Waiver review to DDS.
3. FNRC's vendors reported all (100 percent) incidents in the supplemental sample within the required timeframes.
4. FNRC reported all (100 percent) incidents to DDS within the required timeframes.
5. FNRC's follow-up activities on consumer incidents were appropriate for the severity of the situations for the 10 incidents.

III. Findings and Recommendations

None

SAMPLE CONSUMERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS/VENDORS

HCBS Waiver Review Consumers

#	UCI	CCF	DP
1	5623368	3	
2	6394595	5	
3	6455362	1	
4	7846892		1
5	5865845	4	
6	7120655		
7	6314561	2	
8	5865894	1	
9	6300396		
10	6300297		
11	5796149		
12	6393290		
13	6321319		
14	6392105		
15	6398139		
16	7001282		
17	5090444		
18	5622352		
19	6305791		
20	6314322		
21	5624986		
22	1942762		
23	6398154		
24	6456500		
25	8013678		
26	6409295		
27	5253885		
28	6594010		
29	6400785		
30	6331789		
31	7757885		

Supplemental New Enrollees Sample

#	UCI
NE-1	6344977

HCBS Waiver Review Service Providers

CCF #	Vendor
1	HF0673
2	HF0307
3	PF2691
4	HF0101
5	HF0509

Day Program #	Vendor
1	HF0315

SIR Review Consumers

#	UCI	Vendor
SIR 1	7178040	PF4549
SIR 2	6300263	HF0487
SIR 3	6398337	HF0070
SIR 4	6301147	PF0429
SIR 5	6392629	PF1854
SIR 6	6333354	HF0166
SIR 7	5342191	HF0054
SIR 8	6406707	PF0429
SIR 9	6308233	HF0642
SIR 10	6310023	HF0388