

### COMMUNITY LIVING CONGREGATE LIVING SETTINGS

With the establishment of the Division's Certification Principles and the development of the Home and Community Based Waiver Program, individuals with DD are less often being referred to congregate living settings.

Congregate settings are those that include multiple unrelated individuals who are provided care in a single dwelling. Typically, people do not live in groups with other people who are not their relatives and with whom they did not choose to live. It is this basic reason that congregate settings are being utilized less. In addition, a congregate setting can make it difficult to provide individualized supports or to provide individuals with regular, enriching experience in their community.

Nevertheless, there are times when congregate living may be selected as a way of providing a healthy and safe living setting. A family may choose a group home setting because they are familiar or more comfortable with this setting. Life circumstances such as immediate need for a place to live that can provide adequate health and safety support may also be a reason to choose a congregate setting.

#### **Types of Facilities:**

##### A) Group Homes:

- Setting with no more than 9 residents
- Provides 24 hour care including board, personal assistance, basic health care, medication storage and administration
- Have staff available to provide 24 hour care and specialty care, such as nursing supervision as needed
- Age requirements are dependent on facility, either children or adults
- Individuals must meet facilities health and safety requirements based on the admission criteria for the facility (children's group home for children with significant medical needs)

##### B) Intermediate Care Facility (ICF)

- Licensed by Department of Health and Senior Services for Individuals who require 24 non-medical care
- For people with DD, specific licensure criteria must be met
- Refer to ICF-MR section for more information

##### C) Residential Care Facilities (RCF)

- Licensed by Department of Health and Senior Services and may also be licensed by DMH

- Are licensed at 2 levels; RCF I or II
- Level II also provides diet management, personal care assistance, and medication management
- Must be at least 18 years of age for admission

#### D) Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF)

- Individual must meet Department of Health and Senior Services criteria for skilled nursing need (see Nursing Home Reform Act)
- Must require a significant level of ongoing medical oversight
  - A physician must prescribe all services

#### **Policies:**

Individuals who seek residential services through the Regional Office shall be provided information regarding all types of living settings. They and their families should be given sufficient information to allow them to make an informed choice regarding the available living options. If a congregate setting is selected, the support team assures that the setting will provide the person with sufficient support to provide for the person's health and safety needs. Regular monitoring of services provided in congregate settings shall be provided, regardless of the funding source. Review of outcomes from the individual service plan should occur regularly to assure that the congregate living setting remains appropriate to provide the individual with health and safety support.

#### **Procedures:**

- Individual or family requests residential services.
- Support outcomes are reviewed or established to identify health and safety supports needed.
- If a congregate setting is selected, the admission procedures for that facility are followed.
- Funding for placement must be obtained or individual or their family must negotiate a private placement.
- Regular review of support needs occurs to maintain health and safety

#### **Appeals:**

The individual may appeal through the Division of DD Ineligibility for Specified Services and Right to Appeal process if denied residential services by the RO. If the Department of Social Services (DSS) denies placement in a congregate living setting licensed by DSS but not DMH, the individual may utilize the available appeal processes established by DSS.