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Title of Document: Exceptional Service Coordination for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs in Alternative Residential Placement

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Applicability: DSN County Boards, Contracted Service Providers

Some persons eligible for Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) services may require services that cannot be provided by DDSN Regional Centers, county DSN Boards, or contracted service providers. These persons, nevertheless, should be seen as appropriate for DDSN services and receive service coordination from the county DSN Board or a qualified service coordination provider in cooperation with the state office.

An alternative residential placement is a residential treatment facility, group home facility or therapeutic family home setting for children or adults operated outside DDSN's Organized Health Care Delivery System. When an alternative placement is needed, the Service Coordinator should develop a service plan that outlines the person's needs, the agency or combination of agencies that should provide needed services, along with the services provided through the DDSN service system (cost share/shared funding service plan) as authorized by the Office of Clinical Services in the state office and with approval of the Associate State Director-Administration. Approval is subject to availability of resources, concurrence with placement resolution if needed, and agreement with the plan. The Service Coordinator, with the assistance of the DDSN state office, will actively advocate for the implementation of the plan and will utilize all interagency agreements and referrals such as the S.C. Protection and Advocacy System for People with Disabilities Inc. (P&A), the Children's Case Resolution System (CCRS), or the

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Interagency System for Caring for Emotionally Disturbed Children (ISCEDC) to achieve the necessary services. Waiting lists, both DDSN's and other agencies, will need to be considered; however, urgency of need will continue to be used in placing people in alternative residential placement in priority order.

DDSN will cooperate with other agencies to develop the needed specialized service providers within the State of South Carolina whenever possible. Service Coordinators will utilize the same advocacy and coordinating agencies in advocating for an interagency cost share/shared funding plan in cooperation with the state office.

Legislation required that the Office of the Governor join with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and other key agencies to form the ISCEDC. The Division of Intensive Foster Care and Clinical Services (IFCSS) was established at DSS to serve emotionally and behaviorally disturbed children in DSS custody who reside in, or who are being considered for out-of-home therapeutic (alternative residential) placements. Children who are eligible for DDSN services may be taken into DSS custody and may be eligible to receive services in a therapeutic placement funded by ISCEDC. DDSN is one of several agencies that contribute annually to the ISCEDC fund in order for DSS to provide out-of-home therapeutic services to children in their custody with emotional and behavioral disturbances. Individual interagency cost share agreements are not made on DDSN service recipients receiving alternative residential placement services through ISCEDC.

As a statement of principle, DDSN will not focus on the primary diagnosis, i.e., intellectual disability versus some other disability, in determining a person's eligibility for service coordination or other services. If a person is determined eligible to receive services (please refer to DDSN Directive 100-30-DD: Eligibility Diagnostic Criteria, Screening and Intake Processes for Eligibility, and Appeal Procedures), DDSN will provide the service coordination necessary to work out a shared service or cost share/shared funding plan to meet the person's needs for alternative placement. When a service recipient is admitted to an alternative placement, service coordination will be provided by the DSN Board or qualified service coordination provider where the services recipient resides.



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