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Community Participation Policy	June 1, 2019

Purpose. To ensure that the people we support are fully engage in community life.

Applicability. This policy applies to all employees, students, volunteers and contractors.

Policy Statement:

Integrated settings provide people the opportunity to live, work, and receive services in the greater community. They offer access to community activities when and with whom the person chooses. They offer people choices in daily life activities and encourage interaction with people without disabilities or who are not receiving HCBS.

1. Individuals' receiving services and supports are afforded opportunities to participate in community activities that are based on their personal interests or preferences.
2. Individuals will be free to choose the activities they participate in and staff will provide the supports needed for full participation.

HCBS Services, Inc. will provide opportunities for individuals to participate in community activities. These community opportunities shall occur in both residential and day support services.

Guidelines:

Each residential and day support service program will plan and provide opportunities for individuals to participate in community activities based on the following guidelines.

- Individuals shall be offered opportunities to participate in activities in the local community in which they live.
- While in the community, the DSP will facilitate and support individuals to make acquaintances and find friends, other than paid support staff, with whom to engage, interact and enjoy the community.
- While at a work-site (i.e. in supported employment), individuals will be encouraged to engage with co-workers and to participate in work-site activities.



Community Participation Policy Template

- Opportunities to enjoy community participation should be done 1:1 or in small groups as is feasible to encourage interaction and connection with community members.
- All individuals shall be treated with dignity and respect.
- DSPs act as a role model for community members to support greater integration, inclusion and developing relationships.
- DSPs in all programs should, if appropriate, assist individuals to become part of the local community by volunteering, joining a club, or taking a class, etc.
- DSPs identify transportation options and provide transportation to activities and events. DSPs support individuals in exploring options for transportation to access the community (e.g., use of public transit, family, friends, companion services, volunteers).
- Opportunities offered and experienced will be documented in individuals' notes.

HCBS Services, Inc. provides the following commitments:

- Regular and consistent efforts will be made to plan activities that meet the interests, goals, or preferences of each of individual.
- DSPs shall be trained in positive behavioral supports to provide support to individuals if needed while in the community.
- Staff schedules will be developed to facilitate individual opportunities to participate in community activities.
- Ensure individuals have opportunities and supports needed to be fully included in the community.
- Provide access to information about community events in a variety of ways such as the internet, newspaper, newsletters, community catalogs, etc.