

SUBCHAPTER 71F – INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY ADJUSTMENT SERVICES

10A NCAC 71F .0101 NATURE AND SCOPE

- (a) The definition of individual and family adjustment services is set forth in 10A NCAC 71R .0910.
- (b) Casework counseling is at the core of this service. In the context of this service casework counseling is a process between social worker and client based on a mutual exchange of ideas, opinions, information and consideration of alternatives intended to result in decisions and positive action on the part of the client which will contribute to resolution of or adjustment to identified problems.
- (c) Specialized counseling may be provided in the specified problem areas referred to in 10A NCAC 71R .0910.
- (d) Counseling as a part of this service is not psychotherapy nor is it treatment oriented.

History Note: Authority G.S. 143B-153;
Eff. July 23, 1979;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1990; July 1, 1984;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. May 20, 2017.

10A NCAC 71F .0102 STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

- (a) Casework counseling as a part of this service is to be provided by social workers who meet at least the minimum qualifications of a social worker trainee under state personnel regulations.
- (b) Social workers with the qualifications described in .0102(a) of this Rule may provide casework counseling as a part of this service without specialized training in the specified problem areas referred to in 10A NCAC 71R .0910 regardless of the nature of the client's problems.
- (c) County department of social services staff with qualifications less than the minimum required by state personnel regulations for a social worker trainee may be assigned to assist casework staff in the provision of this service as a part of a team approach when their activities in the case are supervised by the caseworker providing the individual and family adjustment services in the case.
- (d) Paraprofessional staff within a county department of social services may not carry case management responsibility for a service case.
- (e) In support of individually identified casework counseling objectives the supervising social worker may delegate paraprofessional staff to give certain information and instruction to clients, help arrange for and schedule client appointments with other resources, make follow-up contacts with client collaterals, or other service providers, and maintain with clients the kind of supportive relationship which can help keep them motivated to pursue achievement of their goals and assure continuity of service utilization within and outside the department of social services.
- (f) Homemaker services may be provided in conjunction with or in support of individual and family adjustment services, but homemakers may not provide this discrete service.
- (g) Specialized counseling in specified problem areas may be provided in county departments of social services only by staff with at least the minimum qualifications of a social worker trainee under state personnel regulations who have received training in the particular problem areas to which they are assigned.
- (h) County departments of social services must be able to document, if required to do so, that personnel assigned to deliver specialized counseling in the specified problem areas are appropriately qualified.
- (i) Staff providing social development through therapeutic group services must meet at least the minimum qualifications of a Social Worker I.

History Note: Authority G.S. 143B-153;
Eff. July 23, 1979;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1990; July 1, 1984;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. May 20, 2017.

10A NCAC 71F .0103 METHODS OF PROVISION

- (a) Individual and family adjustment services are to be made available by every county department of social services. This mandate does not require that specialized staff be made available for the purpose of providing specialized counseling aimed at dealing with the problems specifically identified in 10A NCAC 71R .0910. With respect to these problem areas, the mandate may be fulfilled by assisting individuals to recognize the need for and utilize community resources which provide specialized counseling.

- (b) Individual and family adjustment services may be provided directly by the county department of social services or purchased under contract. Camping experiences may be purchased also through direct and cash payments.
- (c) Contract provider staff delivering services directly to clients must have appropriate education, skill and experience to qualify them in the specific areas in which they are providing services.
- (d) Counseling may be provided in individual or group sessions.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 143B-153;
Eff. July 23, 1979;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1984;
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10A NCAC 71F .0104 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THERAPEUTIC GROUPS/DEFINITIONS

- (a) "Structured Group" means a company of individuals brought together for a particular purpose with membership being selected purposefully on the basis of common characteristics, needs or problems that can be expected to be affected through group interaction.
- (b) "Therapeutic Group" means a structured company of individuals who meet together with a skilled leader for the purpose of:
 - (1) learning to copy with personal problems,
 - (2) developing capacities for more adequate social and personal function,
 - (3) relieving social isolation,
 - (4) increasing understanding between the group and the service agency.
- (c) "Handicapped" means impaired in mind or body with reasonable certainty that, because of the irremediable character of the impairment, the impairment cannot be improved, corrected or ameliorated and will continue at the same level of seriousness throughout the lifetime of the individual, and the individual must learn to function within the set parameters of the impairment.
- (d) "Developmentally Disabled" means a disability attributable to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or other neurological handicapping condition of any individual found to be closely related to mental retardation or to require treatment similar to that required by mentally retarded individuals.
- (e) "School Age" means age 5 through 15, or age 16 and older and attending or enrolled in school through grade 12.
- (f) "Family" means the basic unit consisting of one or more adults and children, if any, residing in the same household.
- (g) "Youth" means an individual who has not reached his or her eighteenth birthday.
- (h) "Delinquent Behavior" means behavior within the scope of the definition of delinquent juvenile in G.S. 7A-517.
- (i) "Undisciplined Behavior" means behavior within the scope of the definition of undisciplined juvenile in G.S. 7A-517.

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Eff. July 1, 1984;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1990;
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10A NCAC 71F .0105 SOCIAL DEVELOP/THERAPEUTIC GROUPS/CRITERIA/SERV PROVISION

- (a) Social development through therapeutic group services is always provided for two or more individuals at the time.
- (b) The group must always be both structured and therapeutic as defined in (a) and (b) of Rule .0104 in this Subchapter.
- (c) The group must always be guided by a qualified leader who can be expected to direct group interaction towards the therapeutic goal. As a minimum, the leader must have the qualifications of a Social Worker I as shown in state personnel requirements and have experience or training providing social services by the group work method.
- (d) Recreational activities are allowable only to the extent that they are specifically supportive of the purpose of social development through therapeutic group services and must be consistent with the focus of other services provided as part of the service plan.

(e) Day or residential camp is limited to school age children. School age may be verified by documenting that the child is attending school or enrolled to attend school in one of the grades of kindergarten through 12, or by birth verification showing age 5 through 15. Age 16 and older must be attending or enrolled in school up through grade 12. Age must be verified by:

- (1) a birth certificate,
- (2) a hospital record or certificate,
- (3) social security records,
- (4) the client's notarized affidavit.

(f) Therapeutic camp is available to developmentally disabled or handicapped individuals and their families and to youths whose behavior is delinquent or undisciplined. The existence of a disability or a handicap must be established on the basis of professional diagnosis by a person or authority competent to make such a diagnosis. For purposes of determining initial eligibility, documentation of a diagnosis of disability made within the past 12 months is acceptable. The continuing existence of a disability must be redocumented at least every 12 months. With respect to handicaps, the record must document that a diagnosis of permanent impairment has been made. Reevaluation of a handicap is not required unless there is reason to believe that the character of the impairment may have changed. Verification of family may be established by the delinquent or undisciplined behavior may be determined by the statement of the youth's parent, guardian or custodian or by knowledge of the worker.

(g) Groups formed solely for the purpose of relieving social isolation are limited to aging or disabled or handicapped.

(h) Any building used in the provision of a therapeutic group must meet local or state, fire, sanitation, and safety building codes.

(i) Until the State of North Carolina establishes camp standards, American Camping Association camp standards must be followed.

(j) Reimbursement is allowable for staff time in arranging for or providing social development through therapeutic group services and for the use of facilities involved. Reimbursement is not allowable for the cost of refreshments, admission fees, or transportation.

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