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| New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) <p style="text-align: center;">Policy</p> | Policy Number: S-002a Supersedes: S-002 Promoting Healthy Relationships for Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Policy, January 1, 2007 |
| Policy Title: Promoting Healthy Relationships for Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Policy | |
| Effective Date: November 24, 2008 | |
| Approved:  | Date: <i>11-24-08</i> |

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assure that Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) members, Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DD Waiver) and State General Fund (SGF) provider agencies staff, and DDSD staff promote healthy relationships for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD), as part of a comprehensive integrated system of sexuality services.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of DDSD to:

1. Respect the rights of individuals with I/DD to form relationships, including intimate ones;
2. Respect the privacy of individuals with I/DD regarding issues of relationship, sexuality and sexual expression;
3. Provide oversight, through the Office of Behavioral Services, of a process to certify Behavior Support Consultant as Human Sexuality and Relationship Specialist;
4. Provide the training "Introduction to Sexuality Supports for Individuals with I/DD" for specified Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) members, DD Waiver and SGF provider agency staff; and
5. Require all DD Waiver and SGF provider agencies to develop and implement sexuality policies and procedures that are in accordance with DDSD policies and procedures.

III. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) members, DDSD staff, and Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DD Waiver) and State General Fund (SGF) provider agency staff supporting adults with Developmental Disabilities participating in SGF or DD Waiver services on the DD Waiver or SGF programs.

IV. DEFINITIONS

Behavior Support Consultant: Means a licensed professional approved by DDSD Office of Behavioral Services to provide Behavioral Support Consultation services.

Certification/Certified: Means a specified set of activities and competencies gained in a specialization.

Comprehensive Integrated System of Sexuality Services: Means a multi-component system that provides services to address the socialization and sexuality skills and supports needed for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) to live safely in the community and to obtain and keep jobs and form relationships, including intimate ones.

Healthy Relationships: Means ongoing connections with friends, family, and significant others that are characterized by a mutual respect and reciprocity of feeling, and free from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse or emotional or financial exploitation.

Individual: Means, for the purpose of this policy, a person with a developmental disability over the age of 18 years.

Individual Service Plan (ISP): Means a plan developed by an individual, a group of natural supports and professionals (Interdisciplinary Team) that includes information about history, current status, health needs, long term vision and outcomes of each individual receiving services funded through the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division.

Interdisciplinary Team (IDT): Means a group of support professionals, natural supports, medical supports and the Individual in services that develops the ISP and addresses all planning on behalf of the individual and addresses any emergent needs.

Qualifications/Qualified: Means education, specialized training, supervised practice, and/or other activities that demonstrate professional competency as defined by the OBS.

Sexuality: Means values clarification, dating and intimate relationships, personal boundaries and stranger safety, sexually transmitted disease, birth control, pregnancy, childbirth and sexual choice.

Socialization: Means the process whereby individuals are made aware of what is expected of them in social situations from their family, culture, tribe, school, friends, church, and other social or environmental settings.

V. REFERENCES

Code of Conduct and Ethics of Professional Licensing Boards for Behavior Support Consultants

Friends and Relationships Course curriculum

Introduction to Sexuality for People with I/DD Training Manual

Policies or Guidelines of DDS:

- Aversive Intervention Policy
- Behavior Support Consultation Practice Guidelines
- Crisis Prevention/Intervention Policy and Procedure
- The Guidelines Concerning Sexual Contact and Consent 6-30-97
- S-002 & SP-002: Promoting Healthy Relationships for Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Policy and Procedure
- S-003 & SP-003: Socialization and Sexuality Education for Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Policy and Procedure
- S-004 & SP-004: *Friends and Relationships Course* Teacher Certification Policy and Procedure

Regulations:

- Developmental Disability Act [28 –16A-13 (C) (2)]
- 7 NMAC 26.2 - 6;
- 42 CFR 483.400-483.480;
- 7 NMAC 8.2

Standards:

- Developmental Disabilities Waiver Service Standards
- State General Fund Service Definitions and Standards