

Jefferson Area Disability Services Board

c/o Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

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Core Service Area Definitions

Assistive Technology is defined in the Technology-Related Assistance for individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988 as any item, piece of equipment, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capacities of individuals with disabilities. Some key areas for considering assistive technology include: augmentative communication, mobility/seating, leisure and recreation, computers, and job site modification.

Case Management is a dynamic collaborative process which utilizes and builds on the strengths and resources of consumers to assist them in identifying their needs, accessing and coordinating services, and achieving their goals. It includes major collaborative components of case advocacy, assessment, planning, facilitation and monitoring.

Counseling is both a service and the context in which needs are assessed and information and other services provided. It is by establishing a relationship between an individual or family members and a service provider that the opportunity for service planning and provision occurs.

Education All children with disabilities have the right to a free and appropriate education. Services may include special education, speech and language services, occupational and physical therapy, transportation, provision of assistive technology, and transition services.

Employment Services encompass an array of prevocational and vocational preparation activities, new technologies which allow individuals with severe disabilities to compete in the work place, and work site adaptations. Also included in this category of services are job development, placement, supported and sheltered employment, and employer support services to promote hiring and adjustment of persons with disabilities, as well as basic accessibility of work sites.

Family Support is a flexible and varied network of solutions and information useful for maintaining a family when one of its members has a disability. Family support is a philosophy that permeates the delivery of all other services to persons with disabilities. Family support services differ from family to family.

Housing The Disability Commission identified two areas of concern with respect to housing for persons with physical and sensory disabilities. There is a general need for affordable, accessible housing. There is also a need for congregate living options for persons needing assistance and supervision.

Independent Living services include information & referral, independent living skills training, peer counseling, advocacy, community education, and a variety of other services designed to assist persons with disabilities to lead independent lifestyles and access their communities. Centers for Independent Living are the primary source for these community based services. Independent living also includes access to shopping, entertainment, and other services, including parking for those services. Access to and for service animals is also included in this category.

Medical & Therapeutic Persons with physical and sensory disabilities are likely to need health care services to treat existing conditions and to prevent future health problems. Primary concerns presented to the Disability Commission included lack of trained health care providers, limited medical-surgical care for medically indigent children with disabilities, availability, and cost of private health care insurance, and the high cost of medical care.

Personal Assistance services are those services, which make it possible for individuals with severe physical functional limitations to more fully participate in all aspects of daily living and to access other services and opportunities. Personal assistance services include help with activities of daily living such as bathing, communicating, cooking, dressing, eating, housekeeping, toileting, and transportation.

Training refers to the development of qualified service providers, including educators, skilled medical practitioners, interpreters, in-home caregivers, and rehabilitation engineers. Pre-service training refers to training programs and accreditation standards that prepare individuals, including those with disabilities, for entry into service programs. In-service training refers to upgrading knowledge and skills and embracing new strategies and technologies.

Transportation services provide individuals the means of moving from place to place to satisfy some need. Paratransit services refer to on-demand, non-fixed route transportation in an accessible vehicle.

Communication Access includes the removal of communication barriers through the provision of auxiliary aids, alternate formats, and interpreting services when necessary and requested to ensure effective communication

Emergency Preparedness is a community's emergency services ability to handle; planning for; and awareness/training of those with physical/sensory disabilities before, during, and/or after an emergency. To ensure communities are prepared to address the needs of persons with disabilities during emergencies or natural disaster (tornado, flood, hurricane, ice/snow storm).