The Missouri Department of Mental Health serves residents of the state by working to prevent mental disorders, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse and by treating, habilitating, and rehabilitating individuals with those conditions. Treatment and habilitation of persons with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities is the responsibility of the department's Division of Developmental Disabilities.

Eligibility for the division's services is determined through its 11 regional offices located throughout the state. Every person who requests services is entitled to evaluation and service coordination. After a person's eligibility for further services is determined, arrangements are made to obtain services within available resources of the division. The division also operates Southeast Missouri Residential Services, offered in Poplar Bluff, and habilitation centers in Nevada, Higginsville, Marshall, and St. Louis. These facilities provide specialized residential services.

Eligibility

Who Is Eligible to Receive Division Services? – Eligibility is determined by what is known as a functional assessment as opposed to linking eligibility to a specific diagnosis. A developmental disability is a disability which is attributable to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, head injury, autism, a learning disability related to a brain dysfunction, or any other mental or physical impairment which occurs before the age of 22 that delays/limits mental or physical development and interferes with basic life activities. It must be determined that this disability is likely to continue indefinitely.

The individual’s planning team must identify a need for a service before a service coordinator can authorize it. The services may be provided directly by the division or purchased for the eligible person.

Services

Once eligibility is determined, services may include the following:

Therapy – Depending on an individual’s needs, a course of therapy is prescribed and may include occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, and behavioral management therapy.

Training – Each person has potential to be a contributing member of the community. Training programs help develop that potential for community inclusion.

Residential Placement – Community placement and state-operated habilitation centers serve individuals who require assistance in a residential setting.

Choices for Families – This program provides funds to help families obtain services that they may not be able to access in other ways to meet needs of members with developmental disabilities at home.

Other – The division operates a variety of other services. More information about these services is available from the regional office in your area.

How and Where to Apply for Services – You may apply for services or refer someone for services by calling, writing, or going to the regional office that serves your county. The addresses, telephone numbers, and counties served by each regional office are listed in this brochure.

What Is the Cost of Services? – The cost to the person receiving services is determined by ability to pay. When a person applies for services, the regional office staff will ask for information about the individual or family income and the financial resources of the person for whom services are being sought. Most services are subject to charges. More detailed information is available from your regional office.

What If Services Are Denied? – Persons determined ineligible for services have the right to appeal. At your request, staff at regional offices and habilitation centers are available to assist in developing an appeal. More detailed information about appeals is provided in a brochure, “Your Right to Appeal,” which is available from your regional office.

Personnel at Missouri Protection and Advocacy Services, which maintains a toll-free telephone number (1-800-392-8667), also are available to assist in appealing decisions on eligibility or in securing services from other agencies.

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The Department of Mental Health does not deny employment or services because of race, sex, creed, religion, marital status, national origin, disability or age of applicants or employees.

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