



# Frank D. Lanterman

## REGIONAL CENTER

**TITLE:** Speech and Language, Occupational, Physical, and Other Therapies

**DOCUMENT:** Service Standard

**DATE REVISED:** Approved by the Board of Directors – April 27, 2022

Speech and language, occupational, physical, and other therapy services are intended to address significant deficits in development and are necessary to improve the level of functioning or prevent deterioration in these functional areas. Services are typically provided 1-2 times per week, but the frequency and duration are based on an assessment of need. These services may include the use of augmentative and assistive technologies.

The Regional Center may purchase these therapy services once the family has exhausted all generic sources of payment, including the school district, Medi-Cal, California Children’s Services and other public or private third party insurance. Families who are eligible for any of these programs must provide evidence that the requested service is not available from the generic source.

A determination of the necessity for therapy services is based on an assessment completed by a licensed clinician. If services are found to be necessary, the clinician develops a service plan that identifies goals and objectives with timelines, measurable outcomes, level of service as well as the proposed length of service, and parental involvement. The parents are expected to implement practice activities in the home between therapy sessions.

For children under the age of 3, federal law requires the regional center to purchase necessary therapy services if the use of the family’s private insurance would result in a delay in the provision of those services. The regional center’s obligation to purchase the service ends at the time the service is available through the health plan.

For children over the age of 3, the school district is responsible for providing therapy services as part of the Individual Educational Program, including during schoolbreaks if the child will experience deterioration in functioning during those periods. If the school district fails to provide necessary services; the family is expected to exhaust all other generic sources of support before the regional center will purchase these services. For therapy services for school age

children that are not education related, the Regional Center may consider funding services based on a review by the clinical team and evidence that no generic resources exist.

For individuals over the age of 22, the Regional Center typically only purchases therapy services for rehabilitative purposes and if they are not available through another generic funding resource. In exceptional cases, the Regional Center may consider purchasing therapeutic services if there is clear and compelling documentation detailing special circumstances that should be considered.

Termination of services. Services are terminated when the recipient has achieved the goals specified in the service plan, an evaluation determines that the individual is not likely to benefit from additional services, the child “ages out” of the Early Start program or the individual becomes eligible for another funding source.

A number of recreational activities, such as music and drama, horseback riding, and gymnastics, are sometimes presented as having therapeutic benefit. The Regional Center will consider the purchase of such services according to the established service standard for Social Recreation Programs and Non-Medical Therapies.