

CHAPTER 3

Section 3.2. NorthCare Practice Guidelines for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Overview

The NorthCare Practice Guidelines for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities were developed by a panel of clinical experts in the Upper Peninsula through 2002 and 2003. The panel reviewed functional assessments and guidelines for providing a complete service array for individuals with developmental disabilities. They did not find an existing guideline that provided the extent of information the panel felt was necessary. Therefore they developed a NorthCare Functional Assessment and crosswalk to level of care recommendations. The functional assessment score is integrated into the electronic medical record as of 2009/2010 and provides consistent evaluation of eligibility and level of care for the fifteen counties in the UP.

In the past several years, the focus on active engagement in the community has been critical to improve the quality of life of individuals receiving services from CMHSPs particularly if the services are residential services. Therefore, we are listing a handbook developed by a regional staff member that suggests numerous practical approaches to increasing community participation for individuals living in group homes. Material will be updated as more initiatives are implemented in our region.