



PHILIPPINES 2000



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SUBJECT: Guidelines on the Operation of Group Homes for
Older Persons/Persons with Disability in Selected Regions

I. Rationale:

The number of old people throughout the world is rapidly increasing, and the Philippines, as one of the developing nations in Asia, has been focusing its attention to the phenomenon of aging. Of its population of 76 million in Year 2000, there would be about 5 million older persons 60 years and above.

In a study by Domingo et. al. on older persons (1990) 2 out of 3 respondents admitted to have a serious problem of not feeling being needed or wanted. The respondents are uncertain whether they could rely on their children during their old age. Although a UP-Population Institute Study (1994) showed that children living with their old parents still revered the latter by caring and supporting them, the earlier study done by Domingo pointed to the declining respect for older persons. The same result was shown by an ASEAN survey pointing out that 50% of its respondents who are older persons felt that they get "too little respect from the younger generation."

With the rapid increase in the population of the 60 years old and above, the needs of older persons would have to be addressed by the government, the community and the family. One of the needs would be on care and support especially of marginalized older persons.

The need for care and support is also an emerging need for persons with disabilities. Going by the rule of the World Health Organization that 10% of a population are with disabilities, there would be about 7.6 million Filipinos with disability based on the 2000 National Census where it placed the Philippine population at 76.5 million. Their disability could be physical or mental. About seventy-five percent of the persons with disabilities (PWDs) live in the rural or semi-urban areas where resources are very limited. Hence, the needs of the PWDs are not met.

The needs of the PWDs is not different from that of an able-bodied person, only that the former would have special needs. Oftentimes these are not met by the families due to lack of knowledge on the appropriate care and management or due to limited resources. Thus, the PWD without the proper intervention ends up as the society's moral obligation.

Meantime, the Group Home is envisioned to respond to the needs of marginalized persons with disabilities/older persons (PWDs/OPs) who were abandoned, neglected, abused

and unattached and in need of custodial care. The Group Home Program shall be developed to restore the PWDs/OPs social functioning and participation in community affairs. Thus, the development of these guidelines.

II. Description:

The group home for older persons and persons with disabilities is a community-based alternative living arrangement to institutional care. This is provided to a group of 6-8 persons with disabilities or older persons, to enable them to experience independent group living within a homelife atmosphere under the supervision of a social worker either from the Local Government Units (LGUs), other Government Organization (GO) or Non-Government Organization (NGO), as the case maybe. This will be piloted in Field Offices VIII, CAR and X.

In the case of persons with disability, the nature of disability must be considered. For instance, persons who are visually impaired should be living with persons who are orthopedically handicapped while persons with hearing impaired may live with their own peers with similar disability, etc.. The principle of every resident being able to support each other in their daily living activities, must be considered in the group living arrangement.

The Group Home can also be a transit home for a definite period for neglected PWDs or OPs while the necessary services of locating immediate relatives and case management is ongoing.

III. Objective:

General:

- To provide an alternative to institutional care for older persons or persons with disability to enjoy living in a humane and secure environment on their own.

Specific:

1. To provide protection to the poor, abandoned and unattached older persons/persons with disability.
2. To create an opportunity where the OPs/PWDs may pursue full development of their potential.
3. To provide opportunities to restore their social functioning and participation in community affairs.

IV. Target Beneficiaries:

The following OPs/PWDs are qualified for the Group Home:

- a) Older persons, who are 60 years old and over and are ambulatory;
 - Abandoned or unattached or neglected for six (6) months or more;

- Free from communicable diseases, and;
- Are able to relate and live with other older persons.

b) **Persons with Disabilities**

- At least 16 years old and above and are ambulatory. In case the person is orthopedically handicapped, can move about with the aid of assistive devices like wheelchair;
- Neglected, abandoned, unattached or neglected for 6 months or more;
- Without immediate relatives to provide support;
- Physically healthy and free from communicable diseases , and;
- Are able to relate and live with other persons.

V. Implementing Procedures:

The group home for older persons/persons with disabilities is to be implemented in cities or municipalities by the LGUs, other GOs or duly accredited NGOs. To operationalize the program, the following procedures are to be observed.

A. Social Preparation

1) **Orientation on the Project**

The DSWD Field Office shall invite potential LGUs and other GOs for an orientation on the concept of a Group Home.

2) **Pre-Need Assessment**

The local social welfare and development office (SWDO) must secure data on the prevalence of abandoned/unattached older persons or persons with disabilities or without immediate relatives to provide support. A high prevalence would determine the need to establish and implement the Group Home for older persons/WDs. The recommendation for the implementation of the program should emanate from the SWDO and approved by the Local Chief Executive (LCE).

B. Capability Building

1) **Identification of staff, volunteers**

Once the local SWDO has determined the need to implement the Group Home Program, it shall identify the staff to be involved in the day to day operation of the Group Home. Volunteers to assist in the project shall also be identified.

- 2) The capability building activities concerning the LGU officials, SWDO staff, and other intermediaries should be conducted by the DSWD Field Office (FO) upon request of the LGU where the group home is to be established. This may involve the initial orientation on the concept of the project, its operationalization as well as knowledge and skills on the group home services/interventions.

C. Provision of Services/Interventions

The services in the Group Home shall include the various categories of services under the program for disability prevention and rehabilitation of older persons/PWDs to facilitate integration into the community life. The services are to be provided by the local social welfare development office or to be accessed through referrals to appropriate agencies. These are as follows:

1) Social Services

This service is aimed at assisting the beneficiaries to help themselves adjust and participate in a therapeutic community that is guided by a rehabilitation plan, formulated with them, with the end-goal of maximizing their physical, social and economic usefulness.

2) Health and Medical Services

This service aims to maintain the beneficiaries' physical condition and their physical/physiological fitness for group living in the home.

3) Psychological Services

This aims to provide services to attain the beneficiaries' maximum functioning for social adjustment, vocational and other therapeutic activities.

4) Occupational Therapy

This aims to enhance the person's vocational skill geared towards regaining their self-esteem and economic usefulness, whenever feasible, thru gainful tasks like livelihood projects.

5) Spiritual Life Service

This aims to provide activities aimed toward the spiritual growth of the beneficiaries.

D. Monitoring

A regular monitoring of the project based on agreed plans and work schedule and results of implementation is to be conducted at the LGU level and the DSWD. Results will be the basis for further provision of technical assistance by the DSWD Field Office (FO) to the LGU and by the LGU to its staff concerned regarding the day-to-day operation of the home.

E. Evaluation

The project implementation is evaluated to determine if its goals and objectives are achieved. Results of the evaluation will be the basis for improving the operations of the home.

VI. Roles and Responsibilities

A. Department of Social Welfare and Development

1) Programs and Projects Bureau

- a) Prepare manual of operation
- b) Orient the DSWD Field Office officials and staff concerned
- c) Provide technical assistance fund augmentation on capability building activities
- d) Monitor the implementation of the group home for enhancement or further program development
- e) Conduct national evaluation of pilot project implementation
- f) Conduct research study of the project

2) Field Offices

- a) Provide technical assistance to LGUs
- b) Monitor and evaluate, the project to determine areas needing technical assistance
- c) Ensure judicious disbursement of funds
- d) Submit report to Programs and Projects Bureau during the pilot implementation
- e) Participate in the evaluation of the project

B. Local Government Unit

- a) Identify the project site and target clientele
- b) Appoint a facilitating team, composed of SWDO staff and volunteers, who will be responsible for the following:
 - Conduct social preparation and training of the community members, where the Group Home is located, and the older persons or PWD residents as necessary.

- Assist the older person or PWD residents of the Group Home and the community to develop a viable livelihood project to support the Group Home Program.
 - Assist the community identify existing community-based health program to meet the medical needs of the Group Home beneficiaries.
 - Assist the older person or PWD residents of the Group Home in the day to day operation and maintenance of the Home.
 - Draw a contract with the residents of the Group Home on their role and responsibility in the day to day operations and maintenance of the Home.
- c) Provide case management to the residents of the Home.
 - d) Provide administrative support such as salaries of the staff, incentives for the volunteers, maintenance of the group home and its beneficiaries and capital assistance for livelihood projects.
 - e) Develop policies/procedures that would facilitate delivery of services to the beneficiaries of the Group Home.
 - f) Monitor/evaluate the implementation of the project.
 - g) Coordinate with the Field Office (FO) on areas needing technical assistance.
 - h) Participate in the evaluation of the project.

This Administrative Order shall take effect immediately and amends previous orders inconsistent herewith.


CORAZON JULIANO-SOLIMAN
 Secretary
 Department of Social Welfare and Development

