

Department of Social Welfare and Development
National Capital Region

INA Healing Center

RMO NO. 006
Series of 2018

**POLICY ON DAY CENTER SERVICE FOR CHILDREN OF BEREAVED MOTHERS WITHIN
INA HEALING CENTER**

I. Rationale

The Inang Naulila sa Anak (INA) Healing Center is a community-based center for grieving mothers and other family members which is under the management of the DSWD-National Capital Region. The center provides psychosocial counseling for grieving mothers which seek to offer a nurturing environment that will facilitate the healing recovery of the bereaved mothers. Our grief intervention includes holistic and creative approach through Counseling, Mentoring, Crisis Referrals, Therapeutic Services and Skills Development Services. The center also established the three mechanisms of women volunteerism in the context of group work practice included the Grief Watch Volunteers, Peer Support Mentors and Community Links to strengthen institutional mechanism for the effective delivery of INA Healing Center's services to the bereaved mothers and other family members.

Part of INA Healing Center's Holistic Approach which is being provided to the bereaved mothers and done in the center is the Grief Recovery Program Sessions, Therapeutic and Skills Development Activities. Grief Recovery Program (GRP) is being provided to the bereaved mothers and their family members who lost their child and who experiences difficulties towards the resolution of this loss where they are expected to attend seven sessions. The GRP sessions were not only providing a healthy venue for processing of grief, but also instilling mental health care, family unity and personality development. Also, through GRP they were able to transcend their grief experience into a more meaningful way wherein they became more attune to their role as a mother and even became support group to others who has weak family support system. Therapeutic Activities such as memory box making, scrapbook making, memorial gardening, memory cushion, memorial photo frame and sympathy poem and memorial lantern is also being provided for the bereaved mothers to facilitate acceptance of the loss and readiness to adjust to the world while keeping the memory of their departed loved ones alive. And, Skills Development Activities provides opportunities for the bereaved mothers to acquire

gainful occupation/ livelihood opportunities through accessing of clients to Local Government Units, Non-Government Organizations and other partner agencies for skills enrichment which is also being conducted at the center. Some of the capacity building given to them is the Massage Therapy, Cosmetology, Food Processing and Basic Business Management Training.

From CY 2010 up to the current year, the center catered two hundred fifty seven (257) bereaved clients from Local Government Units of NCR. Of the total number of clients, 21.5% were not able to attend the Grief Recovery Program Sessions, Therapeutic and Skills Development Activities in the center. Bereaved mothers are willing to attend the center's activities for they themselves expressed that it is beneficial for their healing and grief recovery but what hinders them to join and participate is the unavailability of their family members to take care of their children. The safety and security of their family member especially their children are one of the concern of the bereaved mothers when they lose their loved ones. Our data showed that children of the bereaved mothers ranging from 0- 7 years old died due to illness/ sickness, vehicular accident, drowning, gunshot wound, stabbing, fire burning incident, murder and rape. These causes of losing their loved ones inflicted intense pain, grief, sorrow and fear. A fear of losing another family member if they unable to secure their family member's safety especially their children.

Thus, in order for the bereaved mothers to attain healing and grief recovery and enable their full participation to some opportunities outside for them to become more productive, a draft policy on the operation of a Day Center for Children of Bereaved Mothers while Attending the Grief Recovery Program Session has been realized. This draft policy will serve as a guideline aimed not just to benefit the bereaved mothers but mainly to provide and ensure an appropriate alternative care for about sixty (60) children of bereaved mothers without compromising their security and safety whereby the children are looked after in the center while they are attending GRP sessions, Therapeutic and Skills Development Activities in the center.

II. Description of Day Center Service for Children of Bereaved Mothers

Day Center Service is a form of early childhood care for children 7 years old below whose parents need to attend the INA Healing Center's GRP sessions, Therapeutic and Skills Development Activities in the center and no family members are available to look after them at home.

This service will provide a child friendly environment for children and it will utilize play group activities as an approach in providing early stimulation activities that is developmentally appropriate for the children. The children are provided with early childhood enrichment activities through a variety of play group activities, games and other learning opportunities which will be facilitated by the Peer Support Mentors under the supervision of a Social Worker.

III. Legal Basis

This draft policy is based on national laws and regional issuances primarily the following:

- Republic Act 9710 otherwise known as the Magna Carta of Women is the primary law that seeks to eliminate discrimination against women by recognizing, protecting, fulfilling and promoting their rights to include comprehensive health services.
- Republic Act No. 7192 - "An Act Promoting the Integration of Women as Full and Equal Partners of Men in Development and Nation Building and for Other Purposes.
- Republic Act No. 6725 - "An Act Strengthening the Prohibition on Discrimination Against Women With Respect to Terms and Conditions of Employment, Amending for the Purpose Article One Hundred Thirty-Five of the Labor Code, as Amended" - This act strengthens the prohibition of discrimination against women in employment, promotion and training opportunities.
- Republic Act No. 6972 - "An Act Establishing a Day Care Center in Every Barangay, Instituting Therein a Total Development and Protection of Children Program, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes" (Also known as the "Barangay-Level Total Development and Protection of Children Act") - This Act establishes day care centers in every barangay to free women for other activities such as taking a job or going back to school.
- Republic Act No. 8980 – "Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Act". An act promulgating a comprehensive policy and a national system for early childhood care and development, providing funds therefore and for other purposes.
- Administrative Order No. 04 Series of 2006 or the Standards in the Implementation of Psycho-Social Services to Women Victims-Survivors of Violence and their Children in Center and Residential Facilities underscores that physical arrangements/facilities shall promote the physical, emotional and psycho-social well-being of the women victims-survivors and their

children and staff of the agency. Also, that these facilities should provide opportunities that will promote psycho-social recovery and protection for their health and safety.

- Administrative Order No. 07 Series of 2015 or the Department of Social Welfare and Development Child Protection Policy in the Workplace.

IV. Definition of Terms

For the purpose of these guidelines, the following relevant terms are hereby defined:

Bereaved Mothers- refers to a mother who lost her child/children due to death.

Grief Recovery Program- refers to programs offered to bereaved mothers who are expected to attend therapeutic services with the trained grief counselor (Psychologist and Social Worker) following a specialized module who will process the feelings and the experience of grief of the client.

Peer Support Mentors- refers to trained bereaved mothers who completed the Mentorship Training. The mentor's task is to help other bereaved mothers give up their relationship with the deceased but help them find an appropriate place for the dead in their emotional lives- a place that will enable them to go on living effectively in the world. And also, the mentor's will act for the day center service for children of bereaved mothers.

Grief Watch Volunteers- refers to identified volunteer individuals referred by Local Government Units in their respective workplace/ communities who shall identify/ refer potential clients to avail of the healing and grief services of the INA Healing Center.

Other Family Members- refers to a father, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, wife, husband, son, daughter who lost their loved one due to death.

V. Objectives

General Objective:

To set guidelines on the implementation of day center service for children of bereaved mothers while they are attending GRP Sessions, Therapeutic and Skills Development Activities in the INA Healing Center.

Specific Objectives:

1. To provide a child friendly environment and enrichment activities through a variety of play group activities for children while their mothers are attending activities in the center.
2. To promote the basic rights of children particularly for safe and wholesome recreation;
3. To ensure that bereaved mothers are able to attend and participate fully in the activities conducted in the center;
4. To enhance productivity of bereaved mothers by providing appropriate care for their children while they are attending the center's activities.

VI. General Policies

1. The INA Healing Center shall not collect any fees or any amount to bereaved mothers in exchange or payment for the day center service provided to their children.
2. INA Healing Center Shall serve as the space for the day center service for children of bereaved mothers and other family members.
3. Peer Support Mentors shall voluntarily render their service as caregiver of the children of bereaved mothers.
4. Social Worker shall constantly monitor the operation of day center service.
5. Maintain safety and comfort of at least 10 children of bereaved mothers attending the GRP and other activities of the center.
6. Peer Support Mentor and Social Worker shall take immediate appropriate action when a child needs medical attention during their stay in the day center.
7. Peer Support Mentor shall never use harsh words and actions to children displaying difficult behavior.

VII. Implementing Procedures

A. Preparatory Stage

1. The Social Worker shall conduct profiling of children of bereaved mothers needing day center service.

2. The Social Worker shall identify prospective Peer Support Mentors interested to serve/ volunteer with the following criteria.
 - a. Must be between the age of 18 to 59 years, female at least high school level;
 - b. Must enjoy playing, teaching and is affectionate with children;
 - c. Must be physically and mentally healthy;
 - d. Must be willing to be trained and supervised by the center's social worker;
 - e. Must be accountable for the Day Center Service' equipment and materials;
 - f. Must be willing to work with other Peer Support Mentors in caring for the children;
 - g. Must be willing to render service for free.
3. The Social Worker shall discuss the objectives and shall orient the PSM on their roles and task in the Day Center Service.
4. The Social Worker shall orient the PSM on the implementation of Day Center Service.
5. The Social Worker shall meet with the bereaved mothers who will undergo the GRP and other center activities together with their family and orient them on the importance of Day Center Service.
6. The Social Worker shall facilitate the filling out and signing of waiver form of bereaved mothers and not forced to entrust their children with the Peer Support Mentors.

B. Implementation Stage

1. The PSM shall facilitate play group activities with the children like baby ball play, storytelling, playing building blocks and other educational toys, dancing and singing nursery rhymes and many others.
2. The day center service shall operate on the schedule of the GRP sessions and other activities which will be conducted also in the center, as follows:

TITLE OF ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE
Grief Recovery Program Sessions	All Fridays of February & March (1:00pm- 5:00pm) All Wednesdays of May & June (1:00pm- 5:00pm) All Fridays of August & September (1:00pm- 5:00pm) All Fridays of November & December (1:00pm- 5:00pm)
Advocacy on Women's Right	Every month of April (8:00am- 5:00pm)
Grief Recovery Program Graduation	Per set timeline
Memorial Photo Frame and Sympathy Poem Activity	Every month of June (8:00am- 5:00pm)
Basic Business Management Training	Every month of October (8:00am- 5:00pm)
Memory Cushion Activity	Every month of September (8:00am- 5:00pm)
Memorial Lantern Activity	Every month of December (8:00am- 5:00pm)
Family Day Activity	Every month of September (8:00am- 5:00pm)
Lecture on Fire Safety and Prevention	Every month of March (8:00- 5:00pm)
Memorial Painting Activity	Every month of August (8:00- 5:00pm)

3. The Social Worker shall ensure Peer Support Mentor to submit an observation report every after the GRP session and other center activities.
4. Inform the Social Worker immediately if a child/ren was observed needing a medical attention or any.

C. Post Implementation Stage

1. The PSM shall turn over the children to their parents after the conduct of GRP and other center's activities and discuss problems with them (if any).
2. The PSM shall keep and return all the educational supplies used in their proper places and ensure that nothing is missing.

VIII. Institutional Arrangement

This section discussed the roles and responsibilities of the involved/concerned unit or offices.

Peer Support Mentor

1. To voluntarily take good care of the children of bereaved mothers in the IHC while the mothers are attending the GRP sessions and other center's activities.
2. To provide variety of play group activities, games and other exercises to children.

Bereaved Mothers

1. To provide the needs of their children such as food, milk or any while their children are in the day center.
2. To inform the PSM beforehand if their children needs special attention due to some medical concern or any.

INA Healing Center

1. To ensure that the children of bereaved mothers were given proper attention by the PSM while staying in the day center.
2. To ensure that PSM are well- trained and undergone training on parent effectiveness.

Local Government Unit

To provide barangay vehicle for the transportation of bereaved mothers and their children who shall attend GRP sessions and other activities in the center.

Field Office

1. To provide food pack for the PSM, if possible, in return for the service they rendered in taking care of the children of bereaved mothers.
2. To provide technical assistance in the implementation of Day Center Service.

Central Office

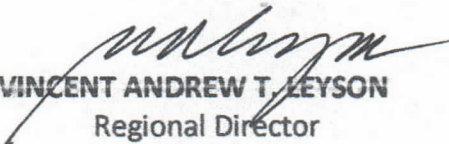
To allow children of bereaved mothers avail medical services provided by the Health Clinic of DSWD Central Office.

IX. Budgetary Requirement

Subject for availability of fund.

XI. Effectivity

This guideline shall take effect immediately upon its approval. Issued in MANILA this 6th day of June, 2018.


VINCENT ANDREW T. LEYSON
Regional Director
DSWD-NCR