

9.2 FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

We value the essential roles that families play in the lives of people with disabilities and the significant role played by extended family members. We also recognize and value the diversity among families and the cultural differences between families. The roles that family members play include:

- Providing support, love and caring,
- Providing a group which has a common history and to which a person unconditionally belongs,
- Acting as advocates,
- Acting as a monitoring agent, and
- Building self esteem by providing a connection to the larger community and through the value of being cared for by someone who is not paid to care.

Given the importance of these roles, we encourage the participation of all family members, immediate and extended, in the lives of those people whom we support. We respect the differences between families and the different types of relationships that exist within families. We will, with the knowledge and consent of the individual:

- encourage family members to visit the homes at any time, while respecting the rights of the roommates in the home,
- foster in whatever ways possible the relationship between family members and the people whom we serve,
- keep family aware of happenings, issues, and concerns with respect to the people that we serve,
- ensure that family members are aware of planning concerning their relative and will make every effort to include them in the planning process.