

HCBS Final Rule Evidentiary Package

AFC - Connections (1020)



Setting information

Setting name: AFC - Connections (1020)	ID number: 1073195
Street address: 1020 N 17th Ave, Moorhead, MN	Phone: (701) 532-1145
Website, if applicable: Connections http://www.connections.services/	Date of site visit: 12/11/2018

Waiver service type

Waiver service	Service type
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Care (AC) <input type="checkbox"/> Elderly Waiver (EW) <input type="checkbox"/> Brain Injury (BI) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI) <input type="checkbox"/> Community Alternative Care (CAC) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Developmental Disabilities (DD)	Adult foster care; Supported living services (SLS)

Reason for heightened scrutiny

Prong type	Category	Type of setting
Prong 3 Effects of isolating characteristics	Effect of isolating characteristic	Is one of multiple homes located on the same street or adjoining property that shares programming activities Multiple (2) same street.

Note: The term people/person (resident for residential settings) refers to people who receive Medicaid HCBS waiver service(s).

General summary

<p>AFC-Connections 1020 is located in Moorhead in a residential neighborhood adjacent to a country club and industrial areas. Moorhead is a city in northwest Minnesota in Clay County. When combined with its “twin” city of Fargo, North Dakota, has a population of about 210,000.</p> <p>The setting is one side of a duplex. It is located on the same street as 2 other duplexes operated by this provider (AFC-Connections 1030 and AFC-Connections 1012). AFC-Connections 1020 serves four people, two people are on the CADI waiver and two people are on the DD waiver.</p> <p>The house is within walking distance of a convenience store and within 2-3 miles of a Walmart, restaurants and other amenities and downtown Fargo, North Dakota.</p>

Foster care/supported living service provider standards/qualifications

Licensure requirements and other state regulations for foster care services clearly distinguish these services/settings from institutional licensure or regulations.

- Child and adult foster care (BI, CAC, CADI waivers) and supported living service providers (DD waiver) must be licensed under [Minnesota Statutes 245D](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/245D) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/245D>).
- Adult foster care (Elderly Waiver and Alternative Care program) provider must meet the licensure requirements found in Minnesota Rules, parts 9555.5050– 9555.6265 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/9555/>) and Minnesota Statutes, section 245A (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/245A>).

Foster care and supported living service definitions that support the setting requirements

Adult and child foster care for people on BI, CAC and CADI waivers:

Adult foster care is ongoing residential care and supportive services and includes personal care assistant services, homemaker, chore, behavioral aide services, companion services, and medication oversight (to the extent permitted under State law) provided in a licensed home. Minnesota's Community Based Service Manual (CBSM) provides requirements for [Adult or child foster care](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/id_001786) (http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/id_001786)

Supported living services for people on the DD waiver:

Supported living services are "residential habilitation services" provided to participants who live in a supported living environment. Residential habilitation services consist of assistance with acquisition, retention, or improvement in skills related to activities of daily living, such as personal grooming and cleanliness, bed making and household chores, eating and the preparation of food, and the social and adaptive skills necessary to enable people to reside in a non-institutional setting. Minnesota's CBSM provides requirements for [Supported living services](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/id_048987#) (http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/id_048987#)

Adult foster care for people on the Elderly Waiver/Alternative Care program:

Minnesota's CBSM provides requirements for [Adult foster care](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/id_056766#foster) (http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/id_056766#foster) for people on the Elderly Waiver/Alternative Care program.

Prong 3 settings

Meaningful distinction between colocated settings

States must submit strong evidence that the setting presumed institutional has the characteristics of a HCBS setting and not an institutional setting.

Determination	Summary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Met <input type="checkbox"/> Unmet <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Describe the extent to which any shared programming (meals, transportation, social/recreational activities) occurs between different homes/buildings (how often, what type of programming or activities are shared) and how the provider assures interests and preferences are supported at an individual level:</p> <p>The administrator and staff both reported that there is no shared programming. There was no evidence of shared meals, transportation, or activities during the on-site visit.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Met <input type="checkbox"/> Unmet <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Describe the extent to which staff are scheduled to work with people at the other colocated setting (s) on the same shift:</p> <p>The administrator and staff reported that staff are not ever scheduled to work with people at the co-located settings on the same shift. The administrator reported that some staff work at another colocated settings but not on the same shift and that they are trained to work at each individual setting.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Met <input type="checkbox"/> Unmet <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<p>Participants in the setting in question do not have to rely primarily on transportation or other services provided by the other co-located setting (s), to the exclusion of other options:</p> <p>The administrator and staff reported that transportation is not shared between settings. The administrator reported that “staff inform residents of [transportation] options, most have lived in the community most of their lives, so they know what’s available.” Staff reported that there is a bus stop at the end of the street and that they “inform, plan, remind” people to support them, and that “work transports a couple of residents.”</p>

Community engagement opportunities and experiences

A person receiving services reported that they participate in activities in the community as often as they want to, generally every day except Sunday. They reported “I choose what I want to do.” This person bought a “fat tire” bike from an ad in the paper for \$20. They said they ride it year-round and “I walk or bike wherever I want to go, no issues getting around in the community.”

Some of the activities people interviewed reported include:

- Biking
- Library
- YMCA
- Visiting friends
- Restaurants
- Dakota Boys Ranch

The administrator and staff also reported various activities that people do in the community such as:

- Walks
- Shopping
- Movies
- Seasonal events
- Bowling

The administrator reported that staff’s role in community engagement is to “assist in finding activities to do, plan, coordinate funds and transport.” The administrator and staff also reported that “residents bring activities to staff.” A monthly calendar of activities was observed to be posted at the house.

It was evident in observation and interviews with people, staff and the administrator that person-centered practices are at the forefront of service delivery by:

- Respecting and honoring the things each person thinks are important and encouraging informed choice and creativity.
- Supporting activities are flexible and work around the person’s preferred schedule (people are not following a “set schedule”)
- Encouraging people to share ideas and make choices about setting activities based on their own personal preferences and interests
- Ensuring people have opportunities and supports they need to be fully included in their community, individually and in groups, as desired

HCBS characteristics

This section is a summary of the individual HCBS characteristics required in the HCBS rule. The findings for each characteristic are identified through the setting attestation documentation, on-site observation or both.

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance status
<p>Each person at the setting has a written lease or residency agreement in place providing protections to address eviction processes and appeals.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compliant documentation submitted with attestation <input type="checkbox"/> Observation made during on-site visit</p>	<p>Not applicable to day service settings</p>
<p>Each person at the setting has privacy in his/her sleeping or living unit including a lockable door.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compliant documentation submitted with attestation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation made during on-site visit</p> <p>Each person has a lock on their bedroom door. A person reported “I feel safe, yes, I use my lock on my door.”</p>	<p>Compliant</p>
<p>The setting facilitates that a person, who shares a bedroom, is with a roommate of their choice.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compliant documentation submitted with attestation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation made during on-site visit</p> <p>Each person has their own bedroom. A person interviewed reported that they do not share a bedroom.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>
<p>The setting provides people with the freedom to furnish and decorate their bedroom and living unit within the lease or residency agreement.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compliant documentation submitted with attestation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation made during on-site visit</p> <p>Bedrooms are individually decorated based on observation during the on-site visit. A person interviewed reported that they can furnish their room as they wish.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance status
<p>The setting provides people the freedom and support to control their daily schedules including access to food at any time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compliant documentation submitted with attestation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation made during on-site visit <p>A person interviewed reported that they were watching their weight and usually doesn't snack, but said they do have access to food if they want it. The administrator and staff reported that people can get food at any time and also that people all have different schedules.</p> <p>The administrator and staff reported that people receiving services can choose to not participate in planned activities and that they have the option to stay home and do another activity. People can go out on their own and there are no restrictions on when, how often, and how long they can go out. The administrator and staff reported that outside of meal times, people receiving services can get something to eat or grab a snack when they are hungry.</p> <p>During the on-site visit people were observed moving about inside and outside the setting.</p>	Compliant
<p>The setting allows people to have visitors at any time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compliant documentation submitted with attestation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation made during on-site visit <p>A person interviewed reported that they can have visitors at any time. The site visitor did not observe a visitor log, visitor hours, or a restricted area for visitors.</p>	Compliant
<p>The setting provides opportunities for people to seek employment and work in competitive integrated settings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compliant documentation submitted with attestation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation made during on-site visit <p>A person interviewed reported that they don't work but could ask their case manager if they wanted to work. The administrator and staff reported that two residents work and staff help them as needed with reminders about their work schedule, packing lunches, providing transportation or bus schedules, etc. The administrator also reported</p>	Compliant

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance status
<p>that a discussion about work options is presented during the “client consults” with the program coordinator. People have an opportunity to meet monthly to have these discussions and all options are presented at that time along with how to contact casemanagers and those that would be involved in assisting with securing employment in the community. This is also discussed during semi-annual meetings with the full team present.</p>	
<p>The setting is physically accessible to the individual.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compliant documentation submitted with attestation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation made during on-site visit <p>A person interviewed reported that they can access all areas of the house. There were no barriers to access were observed during the on-site visit.</p>	Compliant
<p>The setting provides people opportunities to access and engage in community life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compliant documentation submitted with attestation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation made during on-site visit <p>A person interviewed reported that they like to get out and do things in the community. The administrator and staff reported that people go out daily as individuals and weekly in groups. See community engagement section for more information.</p>	Compliant
<p>The setting supports the person’s control of personal resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compliant documentation submitted with attestation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation made during on-site visit <p>A person interviewed reported that they control their own money.</p>	Compliant
<p>The setting ensures people’s right to privacy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compliant documentation submitted with attestation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation made during on-site visit 	Compliant

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance status
<p>The setting ensures people’s dignity and respect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compliant documentation submitted with attestation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation made during on-site visit <p>During the on-site visit staff was observed treating people with dignity and respect. For example, a person was eating at the dining room table and staff was socializing with them. The person chose where to sit to eat their meal.</p>	Compliant
<p>The setting ensures people’s freedom from coercion and restraint.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compliant documentation submitted with attestation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation made during on-site visit <p>A person interviewed reported that they can access all parts of the house and they can come and go from the house. No barriers to free movement were observed, and people moving around inside and outside the house.</p>	Compliant
<p>The setting optimizes individual initiative, autonomy, and independence in making life choices, including daily schedule and with whom to interact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compliant documentation submitted with attestation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation made during on-site visit <p>A person interviewed reported “I choose what I want to do” (when at home) and “I walk or bike wherever I want to go, no issues getting around in the community.” The administrator and staff reported that people at this setting can choose whether to stay home or do things in the community. Staff reported, “All the residents work or go to a day program, varied schedules.”</p>	Compliant

Pictures of the HCBS setting

