Seven Key Components to Reduce, Detect and Prevent Abuse and Neglect

1) **PREVENT** – The provider has the capacity to detect and prevent the occurrence of abuse and neglect, and reviews specific incidents for lessons learned, which form a feedback loop to affect necessary policy changes.

2) **SCREEN** – The provider makes the effort to determine the appropriateness of a prospective employee’s experience in working with individuals with specific conditions and needs, and seeks to identify and verify any previous charges of abuse and neglect of a prospective employee. The provider also screens individuals receiving services to determine whether the individual’s needs can be appropriately addressed within the provider’s setting.

3) **IDENTIFY** – The provider creates and maintains a proactive approach for identifying events and occurrences that may constitute or contribute to abuse and neglect.

4) **TRAIN** – The provider gives all employees, through orientation and ongoing training programs, information regarding abuse and neglect. Training should include reporting requirements and procedures for detection, intervention and prevention. Individuals receiving services should be trained to recognize and identify signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect; they should also be informed of ways in which they and their family members can support detection and prevention efforts.

5) **PROTECT** – The provider seeks generally to support and protect individuals receiving services, their families and staff. Additionally, the provider makes an effort to protect individuals from abuse and neglect during investigation of allegations of abuse or neglect.

6) **REPORT AND INVESTIGATE** – The provider puts in place measures that facilitate and assure the reporting of abuse and neglect. The provider also assures timely, thorough and objective investigation of all allegations of abuse, neglect or mistreatment.

7) **RESPOND** – The provider assures that the appropriate corrective, remedial or disciplinary action occurs in accordance with applicable local, state or Federal law, in response to findings resulting from investigations.

These seven Key Components comprise an integrated approach for the detection and prevention of abuse and neglect. The objective of this approach is to address abuse and neglect at critical points in program planning, policy development and operations.