

Chapter 4 Building the Foundation for Daily Life

Section 1 Measures for Stability of Life

1. Improvement of user-oriented life support system

(1) Revision of Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities

Act on Comprehensive Support for Daily and Social Life of Persons with Disabilities (Act No. 123 of 2005) (hereinafter referred to as “Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities”) was reviewed at three years after the enforcement, and Act for Partial Revision of Act on Comprehensive Support for Daily and Social Life of Persons with Disabilities and Child Welfare Act (Act No. 65 of 2016) was established in May 2016. In this revision of Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities, “Support to the community life desired by persons with disabilities,” “Finely coping with the needs of support for children with disabilities,” “Improvement of the environment to secure and improve the quality of service” are the major constituents.

(2) Outline of Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities

A Disability welfare services

① Integral service provision independent of type of disability

Due to the enforcement of Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities in FY2013, patients with intractable/rare diseases, etc. have become included in the scope of persons with disabilities which is the subject of Disability Welfare Services, etc. With regard to diseases subject to the system (patients with intractable/rare diseases, etc.), 130 diseases which had become the subjects of the program ‘Support for Residential Life of Patients with Intractable/rare diseases’, but they were expanded to 359 diseases since April 1, 2018.

In the Disability Welfare Services fee revision (hereinafter referred to as “Fee revision”) in FY2018, the self-reliance training (function training, life training), which had been divided according to the type of disability, was changed to the system where it is possible to receive training at familiar offices according to users’ disability characteristics.

② Unified implementation by Municipalities

In the “Support fee system,” the implementing entities for some services related to mental disorders were Prefectures, but after the enforcement of Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act (Act No. 123 of 2005), the system was changed, and implementing entities was centralized to Municipalities, and Prefectures back up the Municipalities and can provide services to persons with disabilities.

B User-oriented service system

① Service system focused on community life

Since April 1, 2014, persons with disabilities who are located in protective facilities, or correctional facilities, etc. were decided to be included to subjects for community transition support in addition to persons with disabilities who are located in persons with disabilities

support facilities etc. or those with mental disorders who are hospitalized in psychiatric hospitals from the viewpoint that persons who need support for transition to community life shall be subjects of community transition support widely according to Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities. In addition, from the viewpoint of coping with various needs for persons with disabilities to live in familiar community, persons with intellectual disabilities having behavioral disabilities or persons with mental disabilities were included among subjects for visiting care for persons with severe disabilities in addition to persons with severely physical disabilities.

② **Separation of “Place of daytime activities” and “Place of residence”**

With regard to support of daytime activities in Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act has been restructured as follows and the same system is also adopted in the current Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities.

- Medical care
- Care for daily life
- Rehabilitation service
- Transition support for employment
- Support for continuous employment
- Community activity support center

③ **Support for community life desired by persons with disabilities**

In partial revision of Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities in 2016, a new service was established (enforced in April, 2018) associated with an increase in number of persons with disabilities who use the group home which acts as a go-between in transition to community life, and an increase in the number of persons with disabilities who shift from Transition support for employment places of business or Support for continuous employment places of business to regular employment.

- Employment settlement support
- Independent life assistance

④ **To utilize limited social resources of community**

The private administrators of the residential facilities was limited to social welfare corporations, but the regulation was relaxed so that they can also be managed by corporations other than social welfare corporations, such as specified nonprofit corporations, or medical corporations, etc.

C Promotion of transition of persons with disabilities working in welfare facilities to regular employment

① **Reinforcement of employment support**

For those who wish regular employment, assistance is provided so that regular employment is realized as much as possible, and for persons who are difficult to work in regular employment, assistance is provided so that the level of labor at Support for continuous employment B type places of business, etc. is improved. The number of transition persons from the Employment Disability Welfare Services to regular employment has increased by 10.5 times (1,288 in FY2003 → 13,517 in FY2016) and the Employment

Disability Welfare Services users increased by 3.3 times (97,026 persons in FY2003, to 322,254 persons in FY2016).

② **Efforts for an increase of wages**

Since FY2012, efforts toward an increase of wages are advanced by formulating “Increase of wages plan.” In addition, unless there are special circumstances, “Increase of wages plan” is prepared at each places of business, raising of awareness and active engagement of places of business responsible persons are promoted, and in the Prefectures plan, even promotion of orders by public demand is coped with, raising target values.

D Increase in transparency/clarification of decision on payment

① **Introduction of classification of disability levels and revision to classification of disability support**

In the “Support fee system,” national common use rules (namely, objective criteria for determining the necessity of support) were not defined at the time of payment decision, thus, in Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act, classification of disability levels was introduced to judge the necessity of support. In addition, in “Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities,” classification of disability levels was changed to “classification of disability support” which comprehensively shows the standard degree of support required according to various characteristics of disability and other physical and mental conditions, and “classification of disability support” has been enforced since April 2014.

② **Increase in transparency of the process relating to payment decision**

In making payment decision such as nursing care payment in Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities, Municipalities first conduct an interview survey of persons with disabilities in advance, the first judgment of classification of disability support is conducted based on the survey, and after review (secondary judgment) at a panel composed of experts of disability health welfare, accreditation of classification of disability support is provided, and the process relating to payment decision is made transparent.

E Reinforcement of structures that share costs by everyone

① **State obligation of costs burden**

In the “Support fee system,” the part of the expenses related to in-home services was supplemented with the expenses within the range of the budget, but after the enforcement of Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act, the state mandatedly has burden of part of its expenses (specifically, the State bears one-half of the cost, Prefectures bears one quarter of the cost, and Municipalities bears one quarter of the cost.)

② **User burden**

After enforcement of Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act, it was decided for users to pay within the range of the upper limit monthly charge of the burden set for each income group together with the obligation of the State's costs burden in order to support the system by everyone including the users of the

service

In the Partial Revision of Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities in FY2016, persons who have used Disability Welfare Services reach the age of 65 and transferred to nursing-care insurance service, and the burden of users is increased. In order to solve the situation, the measure was taken that in the case of elderly persons with disabilities who satisfy certain requirements, the burden of users (10% in principle) in using nursing-care insurance services equivalent to Disability Welfare Services is made to zero (enforced in April 2018).

F Promotion of planned service infrastructure development based on disability welfare plan

In Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities and Child Welfare Act (Act No. 164 of 1947), Prefectures and Municipalities must formulate Disability Welfare Plan and Welfare Plan for Children with disabilities which describe numerical targets and prospects for required service volumes. In March 2017, in order to formulate a plan for three years from FY2018 to FY2020, revision of Basic Guidelines (Notification No. 395 of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in 2006) to ensure improvement of Disability Welfare Services and consultation support as well as improvement of the providing system of Community Life Support Project by Prefectures and Municipalities and smooth implementation of independence support benefits and Community Life Support Project was made. The main points of revision are as follows.

- ① **Improvement of regulations to achieve regional symbiotic society**
- ② **Construction of community comprehensive care system that can cope with mental disorders**
- ③ **Planned improvement of providing system to support children with disabilities**
 - (a) **Construction of Community Support System**
 - (b) **Support collaborated with relevant organizations such as nursing, health care, education, employment support**
 - (c) **Promotion of participation and inclusion in communities**
 - (d) **Improvement of support system for children with disabilities that require special care**
 - (e) **Securing of providing system of consultation support for children with disabilities**
- ④ **Further enhancement of support for persons with developmental disorders**
- ⑤ **Setting of goals for securing a providing system of welfare service for persons with disabilities and transportation services support for children with disabilities**
 - (a) **Transition of residents in welfare facilities to community life**
 - (b) **Construction of a community comprehensive care system coping with mental disorders**
 - (c) **Improvement of community life support base, etc.**
 - (d) **Transition from welfare facilities to regular employment etc.**

(e) Improvement of providing system to support children with disabilities

(3) Promotion of improvement of familiar consultation support system

A General consultation support for persons with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities

With regard to general consultation support for persons with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities, the implementing entities of the project is centralized to Municipalities familiar to users, regardless of the type of disability according to Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act. Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare determines to train the chief consultation support specialist who plays a leading role in consultation support, etc. in community in order to further enhance the support system for persons with disabilities from FY2018.

B Efforts by Prefectures and coping with toward the municipalities areas

In Prefectures, recovery consultation offices, etc. are established which have the role of providing expert technical support and information for Municipalities, and counselors for persons with physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities, counselors concerning children and mental health welfare counselors are arranged according to the contents of consultation support carried out by each facility.

C Legal Affairs Bureau and Others

At the Legal Affairs Bureau, the District Legal Affairs Bureau and its branch offices throughout the country, Human Rights Volunteers and the Legal Affairs Bureau staff provide counseling on human rights issues such as discrimination and abuse against persons with disabilities by interview counseling and telephone. Consultation support is also being conducted at public health centers, medical institutions, education committees, special support schools, Hello Work, and volunteer organizations, etc.

D Inmates in the correctional institutions

For the inmates in the correctional institutions who are difficult to be self-sustained due to disability etc., the “community life settlement support center” has been prepared for each prefecture nationwide so that they can receive welfare services immediately after leaving the institution.

(4) Promotion of rights protection

A The adult guardianship system, etc.

The project to support use of the adult guardianship system is conducted to subsidize the expenses required for the petition and the remuneration of the guardian etc. in whole or in part, if it is recognized to be difficult for a person with severe intellectual disabilities or a person with mental disabilities who intends to use or try to use disability welfare services to use the adult guardianship system unless receiving the subsidy, which is positioned as an essential project of Municipalities Community Life Support Project

since FY2012. As of April 1, 2017, 1,485 municipalities (85%) are carrying out this system, and it is intended to notify this project to general public in the future.

With regard to the project to train personnel who are capable of properly conducting the work of guardian, assistance and aid, Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities positioned the Adult Guardianship Corporate Guardian Support Project to be the essential project of Municipalities as Community Life Support Project from FY2013, and furthermore, it has become obligatory for business persons of designated disability welfare services to provide services, etc. from the standpoint of persons with disabilities at all times, considering support for decision making by persons with disabilities etc.

In addition, in accordance with the “Basic Plan for Promotion of the Adult Guardianship System” (March 24, 2017 Cabinet decision) prepared based on the Act on Promotion of the Utilization of Adult Guardianship System (Act No.29 of 2016), measures on promoting the use of adult guardianship is promoted comprehensively and systematically so that appropriate support is provided emphasizing not only property management of adult ward but also decision making support and personal protection. At the same time, as a measure based on the Act on Promotion of the Adult Guardianship System, Law draft of “Establishment of related laws to improve the appropriateness of measures related to restrictions on rights such as adult ward” to take measures in order to make appropriate the measures such as disqualification clauses related to adult wards and other restrictions on rights was approved in a Cabinet meeting in March, 2018, and submitted to the National Assembly in order to prevent unjustifiable discrimination on the grounds to be an adult ward, etc.

B Persons with disabilities as consumers

A system watching consumers at high risk of being victim (person with disabilities, elderly persons, experienced victim, etc.) effectively and emphatically in the community, preventing consumer problems was established through district consumer administration promotion grant etc., and activities to prevent the consumer troubles and conduct early detection are supported. In addition, the amended Consumer Safety Act of 2014 that was enforced since April 2016 includes a provision that it is possible to establish Local Council for Ensuring the Safety of Consumers at Local governments.

(5) Promotion of measures to prevent abuse of against persons with disabilities

Act on the Prevention of Abuse of Persons with Disabilities and Support for Caregivers (Act No. 79 of 2011) has been enforced since October, 2012. Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare will support Prefectures and Municipalities that improve and enhance the cooperation system of concerned organizations etc. in the community, visit homes of persons with disabilities who had been abused in the past, conduct the workshop on prevention of abuses against persons with disabilities, and analyze abuse cases in the Community Life

Support Project.

(6) Support for activities of organizations of persons with disabilities or persons with disabilities themselves

From the viewpoint of obtaining the participation of persons with disabilities in the decision making process and reflecting their viewpoints in the measures, persons with disabilities and organizations of persons with disabilities are participating in deliberation as members at the Policy Committee for Persons with Disabilities by receiving information security and other reasonable accommodation. In addition, in the Community Life Support Project based on Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities, “Voluntary Activity Support Project” that supports voluntary activities conducted by persons with disabilities, their families, community residents, etc. is carried out.

2. Enhancement of home service, etc.

(1) Enhancement of home service

According to Act on Comprehensive Support for Daily and Social Life of Persons with Disabilities (Act No. 123 of 2005) (hereinafter referred to as “Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities”), the supports including in-home care, visiting care for persons with severe disabilities, accompanying assistance, behavior assistance, and comprehensive support for persons with severe disabilities are carried out depending on the user pictures and the form of providing services from the viewpoint of providing support according to the actual condition of users.

(2) Ensuring housing

A Support for ensuring housing in welfare measures

In the Welfare service fee revision (hereinafter referred to as “Fee revision”) in FY2018, a new type of group home “Daytime Service Assisted Designated Communal Living Assistance” that can cope with the advanced severity and aging of users by securing a regular support system was established (enforced in April, 2018).

Housing support projects (resident support projects) are positioned in the Consultation Support Project in the Community Life Support Project, and for persons with disabilities who wish to move in public rental housing or private rental housing, tenancy supports such as request for property to real estate agent or residence agreement procedures with landlords, etc. and adjustment of support system after residence are carried out. Also, in order to allow persons with disabilities to live in the community, a Welfare Home Project that uses living rooms at a low fee is implemented.

B Support for ensuring housing in housing measures

Based on Act on Promoting Supply of Rental Housing to Persons Requiring Housing Support (Act No. 112 of 2007) stipulating basic matters concerning the promotion of supply of rental housing according to the principle of Basic Act for Housing (Act No. 61 of 2006), various measures such as precise supply of public housing and public rental housing having a role complementary thereto and

support for smooth entry into private rental housing are unitedly promoted. According to the Act (Act No. 24 of 2017) to revise Part of Act on Promoting Supply of Rental Housing to Persons Requiring Housing Support (promulgated on April 26, 2017, and enforced on October 25 of the same year), new housing safety net policy was established stipulating the registration system of rental housing that does not refuse for person for whom house securing is considered necessary to reside in the house, utilizing private rental housing and vacant residential housing.

① **Supply of public rental housing considering persons with disabilities**

② **Promotion of smooth entry into private rental housing**

C Cooperation between housing measures and welfare measures

With regard to public housing, it is possible to utilize it for the group home business aiming to support the communal living of persons with disabilities, and improvement work costs to use public housing etc. as a group home for persons with disabilities are supported. With regard to public housing with a daily life support service (silver housing), when it is deemed necessary particularly by the head of local governments, households including persons with disabilities are allowed to move in, and the stability of their housing is guaranteed.

Furthermore, since FY2018, the efforts to introduce living support facilities such as welfare facilities for persons with disabilities is supported along with large-scale renovation of existing public housing and improved housing. With regard to private rental housings, the smooth entry into private rental housing for households including persons with disabilities is supported by utilizing the Housing Support Council and Resident Support Corporation.

(3) Promotion of independence and social participation

Since October, 2006, Prefectures and Municipalities are implementing Community Life Support Project which flexibly operates according to the characteristics of community and the situation of users by creative ingenuity, and support for society participation and independence of persons with disabilities is promoted. By the Act on Assistance Dogs for Physically Disabled Persons (Act No. 49 of 2002), in cases where persons with disabilities use public facilities or facilities that are used by unspecified and a large number of persons, the assistant dogs for the persons with physical disabilities (guide dogs, assisting dogs and hearing dogs) became allowed to be accompanied. In addition, Act (Act No. 126 of 2007) revising a part of the Act on Assistance Dogs for Physically Handicapped Persons was established in FY2007, and since April 2008, it was clarified that Prefectures etc. must cope with offering of complaints, etc., and since October of the same year, it shall not be refused for persons with disabilities who work at places of business or offices of a certain size or more to use assistant dogs for the persons with physical disabilities.

(4) Enhancement of measures for children with developmental disorders

A Definition of developmental disorders.

In Act on Support for Persons with Developmental Disorders (Act No. 167 of 2004), “Developmental disorders” are defined as disorders such as autistic disorders, Asperger's syndrome and other pervasive developmental disorders, learning disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorders and similar brain function disorders whose symptoms are usually manifested in low age.

B Promotion of support for persons with developmental disorders

① Support system improvement for persons with developmental disorders

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is conducting “Support System Improvement Project for Persons with Developmental disorders” of the Community Life Support Project, where Prefectures etc. post the community support manager for persons with developmental disorders in the support center for persons with developmental disorders, etc. which is the core of Community Support, promote reinforcement of support for Municipalities, and places of business etc. and cooperation with medical institutions in order to improve the support system for consistent developmental disorders from infancy to elderly, and cope with difficult cases, and provide appropriate medical care. In addition, in order to finely support persons with developmental disorders and their families etc. since FY2017, Prefectures et al. have established “Community Council to Support Persons with Developmental disorders,” and are supporting verification of the situation of the improvement of the support system and activities status of support center for persons with developmental disorders in each municipality or disability health welfare area

② Support for children with developmental disorders and their family members

By the Partial Revision of Act on Support for Persons with Developmental Disorders (Act No. 167 of 2004), since FY2018, in order to promote the support among families of children with developmental disorders as “Support Activities for Children with Developmental Disorders and Family” of Community Life Support Project, the support such as the peer support, etc. for individuals with the same trouble and families of children with developmental disorders is newly incorporated.

③ Support center operation business for persons with developmental disorders

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has been improving “Support Center for Persons with Developmental disorders” that provides consultation support, development support, employment support and information provision for persons with developmental disorders and their families etc. which is currently established in all prefectures/designated cities.

④ **Development of support method and dissemination of information**

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is conducting “Community Life Support Model Project for Children with Developmental Disorders” to improve the development of the support methods for supporting children with disabilities, the support by cooperating with related fields and the support without breaks.

⑤ **Early support of developmental disorders**

Since FY2011, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare provide financial support for dispatching of “Patrol Assistant Specialists.” Patrol Assistant Specialists who have knowledge about developmental disorders, etc. visit nursery schools and after-school children clubs, and provide advice for early discovery/early coping with disabilities.

⑥ **Training of human resources**

Since FY2016, Prefectures et al. have been conducting the workshop to improve ability for coping with developmental disorders for the medical staff such as family physicians including pediatricians and have been working on training of medical professionals so that certain level of medical care for and coping with developmental disorders are possible in every community in consideration of the importance of early detection and early support for developmental disorders.

Furthermore, since FY2018, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare decided to support for prefectures, etc. to conduct on-site training to train physicians etc. who conduct medical examination and support of developmental disorders in “specialized medical institution network construction business for developmental disorders.”

(5) **Coping with deaf-blind persons, etc.**

A **Coping with deaf-blind persons**

Deaf-blind persons are “persons with vision and hearing impairment,” and there are four types: “totally deafblind, blind hearing loss, amblyopia deaf, and low vision deaf. Since FY2013, in the Community Life Support Project of Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities, in order to encourage the independence and social participation of the deafblind, “Interpreter/Assistant Training Course Project for Deaf-Blind Persons” and “Interpreter/Assistant Dispatch Business for Deaf-Blind Persons” to support the communication or movement are conducted as essential projects of Prefectures. Since FY2013, “Personal Computer Leader Training Project for Deaf-blind Persons,” etc. is conducted and communication support for deaf-blind persons is enhanced.

B **Coping with severe behavioral disabilities**

Support is provided by “Children with severe behavioral disorder special support addition” etc. to provide appropriate support and environment at designated facilities such as residence facilities for children with disabilities. Since FY2013, “Training Course for

Supporters for Severe Behavioral Disabilities” was established and “Addition of Support for Persons with Severe Disabilities” was reviewed in Fee revision in FY2015 and the support is enhanced by evaluating the persons who completed the training in terms of fee, and by making it necessary for activity support employees to attend training, etc. In addition, in Fee revision in FY2018, addition is created when places of business that provide the child development support or after-school day service distribute staff who completed training, and support children with severe behavioral disabilities.

C Coping with patients with intractable/rare diseases, etc.

In Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities enforced since April 2013, patients with intractable/rare diseases, etc. were added to definition of persons with disabilities, and became the subjects of Disability Welfare Services, and it was decided that patients with intractable/rare diseases, etc. who newly became the subjects can utilize Disability Welfare Services (in the case of children with disabilities, children with disabilities support based on Child Welfare Act (Act No. 164 of December 12, 1947)) which are deemed necessary in municipalities regardless of possession of a notebook of person with disability, after undergoing procedures such as recognition of classification of disability levels (classification of disability support since April 2014) depending on necessity. With regard to the range of subject diseases (intractable/rare diseases, etc.) in Act on Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities, it has expanded to 359 diseases since April 1, 2018.

3. Support for economic independence

(1) Income guarantee by pension system etc.

In Japan, universal pension coverage was achieved, and in principle, all Japanese citizens are supposed to join pension system. Disability Basic Pension and Disability Employees' Pension are provided for persons with disabilities developed during the insured period, and Disability Basic Pension is also paid for persons with disabilities developed before the age of 20, at which they join the National Pension. Therefore, in principle, all the adults with disabilities can receive pensions, and pensions play an important role in the income security of persons with disabilities. In addition, in the Prefectures/designated city, the Persons with Disabilities Support Mutual Aid System (optional participation) is carried out which pays life-time pension to persons with disabilities, etc. when the guardian dies on conditions that the guardian pays premium while living.

(2) Support for proper management of personal property

We are trying to disseminate the adult guardianship system and adult guardianship registration system that contribute to the support of property management of persons with insufficient judgment ability such as persons with dementia, persons with intellectual disabilities, or persons with mental disabilities.

4. Restructuring of facility service

(1) Facility improvement as a base to support community life

Aiming to raise the skills of social life having life in community in mind, the transition from facilities etc. to community life is promoted and it was decided to advance “localization” to open up the special function of the facility to the community as a base to support community life.

(2) Community use of facilities

As for the facility, we will position it to be an important resource of community as a base of home support to provide various home care services so that the persons with disabilities living in the community can utilize the various functions that the facility has by utilizing the knowledge and experience accumulated by the facility, aiming to further enhance our efforts. In the 5th Phase of Disability Welfare Plan, it is decided to prepare at least one base in each municipality, or each area, with the function to support the community life of persons with disabilities.

5. Promotion of sports, cultural and artistic activities

(1) Promotion of sports

A Promotion of dissemination of sports for persons with disabilities

Since FY2015, in the Prefectures/designated ordinance cities, the project to establish collaboration and collaboration system of sports participants and disability welfare participants has been carried out. Since FY2018, we will provide efforts to reinforce the promotion system for sports for persons with disabilities in the community, to develop an environment where sports can be carried out in familiar places, and efforts to reinforce the system of persons with disabilities sports organizations by matching of persons with disabilities sports groups with private companies, etc.

B High performance sports for persons with disabilities

The PyeongChang Paralympic Games were held in March 2018, and the Japan team won three gold medals and the total of ten medals exceeding the previous games. Based on the “Support Plan for High Performance Sports (Suzuki Plan)” (October 2016) and the “Sports Basic Plan” (March 2017), Japan Sports Agency is working on support for high performance sports without making a difference in the content of support for the Olympic sports and the Paralympic sports. Furthermore, since FY2017 under the project “Develop the functional infrastructure of the Japan High Performance Sport Center”, it has been taking measures to improve the functions of sports equipment in order to steadily increase the advantage of winning medals toward the 2020 Tokyo Games, etc. In addition, as an integrated base of the Olympic sports and the Paralympic sports, it has been working on expanding the National Training Center, aiming at the completion at the end of June 2019.

(2) Promotion of cultural activities

The “Basic Policy for Promoting Measures related to Preparations for and Management of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo in 2020” (decided by the Cabinet on November 27, 2015) stipulates to disseminate the appeal of Japanese culture. In March of 2016, “The

Related Ministries and Agencies Cooperative Conference with regard to measures through culture to induce social movement for 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games” composed of the related ministries and agencies, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and the Organizing Committee of the Games was held. In the conference, it was decided that culture programs, taking into consideration the period after 2020, that are utilizing the culture rich in community property and rich in variety which is strength of Japan, and contributing to the creation of legacy that can be proud of in the next generation and that is suitable for mature society including efforts to remove barriers for persons with disabilities, etc., shall be certified as the “beyond 2020 program” and expanded all over Japan. Approximately 4,000 projects were certified as of the end of March 2018.

6. Research and development, dissemination promotion and utilization support of welfare equipment

(1) Dissemination of welfare equipment

As for payment of prosthetic equipment cost, part of expenses required for purchase or repair of prosthetic equipment such as prosthetic limbs, braces, wheelchairs, blind person's safety stick, hearing aids etc. are paid by public expenses as the supplement or substitute of the body function in order to improve the daily life and social life of persons with disabilities. Since FY2018, only when the “borrowing” is deemed appropriate in light of the convenience of persons with disabilities, it became newly subject to the provision of prosthetic equipment expenses, while maintaining the principle of purchase as the basis.

As for benefits (rental) of daily living equipment, special sleeping beds, special mats, bathing aid tools, etc. are provided or lent to persons with disabilities who are seriously hindered to conduct daily life for the convenience of everyday life, which is positioned as a project of Community Life Support Project, and Municipalities, which are the implementing entity, are practicing flexibly in consideration of the needs of persons with disabilities in the community.

(2) Enhancement of information and consultation system

With regard to information on welfare equipment, the Association for Technical Aids has established a database (Technical Aids Information System: TAIS) on information of manufacturing and selling companies of welfare equipment and individual information of welfare equipment, and is offering these information through Internet.

(3) Promotion of research and development

Since FY1993, based on the Act on Promotion of Research and Development of Welfare Equipment and Promotion of Dissemination (Act No. 38 of 1993), promotion of the practical development project of welfare equipment have been conducted. In this project, research and development costs are subsidized through the National Research and Development Agency New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) to private

enterprises that develop practical application of welfare tools with excellent technology and ingenuity for the purpose of improving the quality of life of elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and caregivers

(4) Promotion of standardization

In order to promote the development and dissemination of better Assistive products we promoted standardization of Assistive products utilizing Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS) from FY2004 to FY2017. By FY2017, 40 standards including JIS Z 8071 (Guide for addressing accessibility in standards) were established and studies are underway to prepare cross-sectional evaluation standards on accessible designs.

7. Improvement of service quality

(1) Improvement in treatment of human resources of disabilities and welfare

In welfare service fee revision (hereinafter referred to as “Fee revision”) in FY2012, “Addition of improvement of welfare and nursing care staff treatment” was created, and in addition to this, efforts were made to expand this addition in Fee revision in FY2015 and to improve treatment equivalent to an average of 27,000 yen per month per staff member. In addition, based on “The Japan’s Plan for Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens” decided by the Cabinet in June 2016, in April 2017, a temporary Fee revision was revised to improve the monthly average equivalent to 10,000 yen per employee in each establishment that established the career-up structure of the company staff so that the wage difference with competitive industries disappears.

(2) Third Party Assessment Project

With regard to third party assessment projects, in order to further conduct dissemination /establishment of business, in May 2004, we notified each prefecture of the guidance describing guidelines for third party assessment criteria common to welfare services, and third party assessment promotion system, etc. and reviewed in April 2014 for further improvement of quality. In February 2017, common assessment criteria and content assessment criteria concerning children with disabilities welfare services etc. are reviewed so that assessment based on situations peculiar to children with disabilities welfare services will be implemented smoothly.

(3) Disability Welfare Services etc. information publicizing system

Associated with partial revision of Act on Comprehensive Support for Daily and Social Life of Persons with Disabilities (Act No. 123 of 2005) and Child Welfare Act (Act No. 164 of 1947) in FY2016, “Disability Welfare Services etc. information publicizing system” (enforced in April 2018 which is the system that the facility and business person reports the contents of the project etc. to the Prefecture Governors, and the prefecture governor who received the report publicize it was created

8. Training and securing of specialized occupation

(1) Welfare profession

Based on the Social Welfare Act (Act No. 45 of 1951), measures are being taken to secure comprehensive social welfare projects workers including establishment of Prefecture Welfare Human Resource Center Providing Training for Workers in Social Welfare Project etc. and conducting Free Employment introduction Businesses etc. and Benefits welfare center enhancing benefits welfare of social welfare-related officials

A. Social worker, Care worker

With regard to social workers, the number of registrants is 221,251 (as of the end of March 2018), and for care workers, 1,558,897 persons (as of the end of March 2018) are registered.

B. Mental health care worker

As for the mental health care worker, the number of registrants is 80,891 (as of the end of March 2018).

(2) Persons engaged in rehabilitation etc.

A. Physical therapist, occupational therapist

As of December 2017, the number of qualified registrants is 151,588 for physiotherapists and 85,107 for occupational therapists.

B. Orthoptist, Prosthetist

As of December 2017, the number of qualified registrants is 14,469 for orthoptist and 5,091 for prosthetists.

C. Language hearing expert

As of December 2017, the number of qualified registrants of language hearing expert is 29,198.

D. Certified Public psychologist

The Certified Public Psychologist Act (Act No. 68 of 2015) was established in September 2015, and enforced from September 2017. The first national examination will be carried out in September 2018.

(3) Utilization of national specialized agencies

At the National Person with Disabilities Rehabilitation Center Institute, 6 departments to train professionals engaged in the rehabilitation and welfare of persons with disabilities were set up, and at the same time it is carrying out training to promote knowledge and skills to various professionals currently engaged.

Section 2 Measures on Health Care and Medical Treatment

1. Prevention and treatment of diseases, etc. causing disability

(1) Prevention and Early Detection of Diseases, etc. Causing Disability

A. Health checkup

For early detection and early treatment, the implementation of mass screening tests for neonates, the implementation of neonatal hearing examinations are promoted for the purpose of the early detection and early treatment of hearing impairment.

In addition, comprehensive health checkup has been carried out for

all 1 year 6 months old children and 3 year old children, and appropriate guidance is given based on the results.

At school, health checkup of students are conducted at the time of enrollment and regularly in every grade.

In the workplace, business person is obliged to conduct medical checkup when hiring workers and regularly.

B Health guidance

For pregnant women, neonates, premature infants, etc., health guidance is provided by individual guidance such as home visits to prevent diseases, etc. causing the disability and to maintain and improve health.

C Prevention of lifestyle diseases

National Health Promotion Based on “Health Japan 21 (Secondary)” (Notice of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) which specifies concrete goals such as prevention of cancer, diabetes and other NCDs (noninfectious diseases) has started since FY2013.

(2) Treatment of diseases, etc. causing the disability

The 331 diseases are designated to date as subject diseases of aid for medical expenses based on Act on Medical Care for Patients with Intractable Disease (Act No. 50 of 2014) enforced on January 1, 2015. In FY2016, the “Disease management system for intractable diseases (Report)” was compiled at Health Science Council Disease Control Group Intractable Disease Control Committee. Based on this report, in April 2017, guidance on the construction of a medical provision system for intractable diseases was notified to prefectures so that the necessary medical provision system is constructed in prefectures.

(3) Dissemination of correct knowledge

Enhancement of school safety

In schools, it is important for students to respect lives of others and themselves, to practically understand what is necessary for safety in daily life in general, and to develop attitudes and abilities that allow for safe living, thus, safety education is provided throughout the school's educational activities such as physical education, health physical education, and special activities, etc.

2. Enhancement of appropriate health and medical services for persons with disabilities

(1) Medical care and medical rehabilitation for persons with disabilities

A Provision of medical care and rehabilitation medical care

Based on Act on Comprehensive Support for Daily and Social Life of Persons with Disabilities (Act No. 123 of 2005), medical care to alleviate the physical disability state (rehabilitation and training medical care) and continuous treatment for mental illness (mental visiting medical care) are positioned as self-supporting medical care, and part or whole of self-pay of the medical expenses is paid at public expense. In the revision of medical fee in FY2018, we added cooperation with consultation support business person in Disability

Welfare Services to requirements for hospital admission and discharge support and guidance at discharge, and conducted revision enabling evaluation enhancement and continuous support with regard to multi-occupational collaborative visit support for patients with severe mental disease living at home, etc. In addition, we enhanced the evaluation concerning long-term visiting nursing care for children who need medical care.

B Securing of medical rehabilitation

National Person with Disabilities Rehabilitation Center Hospital carries out functional recovery training coping with each disability, as well as medical consultation and psychological support for early discharge and rehabilitation in society. It also provides necessary services and information about health promotion and function maintenance of persons with disabilities. Supporting base organizations to support persons with higher brain function disabilities are established in Prefectures which started the Higher Brain Function Disabilities and Related Disabilities Support Dissemination Project to conduct <1> Professional consultation support for persons with higher brain function disabilities by consultation support coordinator <2> Enforcement of community support network with the relevant organization and <3> Workshop regarding support method of higher brain function disabilities.

(2) Health medical care services for patients with intractable diseases

We are promoting the provision of health and medical welfare services in community, such as improvement of intractable disease treatment coordinated base hospital, base hospital by field by Prefecture, improvement of intractable disease treatment cooperative hospital, and reinforcement of support in community for home incurable diseases patients focusing on public health centers so that a system that can diagnose the incurable disease correctly at an early stage and a system that can receive appropriate medical care at a medical institution more familiar after the diagnosis can be improved.

(3) Information provision to patients with intractable diseases related to health and medical services

With regard to providing information to patients with intractable diseases, Intractable Disease Information Center utilizes the Internet to provide information on the latest medicine and medical care.

3. Promotion of mental health and medical care measures

(1) Mind health promotion

A Promotion of measures for depression

In Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, “Suicide/depression etc. countermeasure project team” is grasping the actual condition of suicide, considering more effective suicide countermeasures, compiling measures to be focused intensively and promoting measures based on them. With regard to cognitive behavioral

therapy whose effect on depression is evident, we prepared an implementation manual and published it on the website of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

B Information provision concerning mental disorders

Two web-sites of “Everyone's Mental Health Comprehensive Site (<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/kokoro/>)” which makes it easy to understand information useful for treatment and living, such as an explanation on mental health problems and introductions of various support services and “Let's maintain mind, too - Mental Health site to support young persons (<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/kokoro/youth/>)” introducing in an easy-to-understand manner what to do when the person himself/herself or the surroundings notices a mental disorder, for persons in their teens and 20s and those surrounding them (family /educational jobs) are opened within the web-site of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

C Child adolescence and coping with PTSD

In order to train experts in adolescent mental health, adolescent mental health measures special training for doctors and co-medical staffs, are conducted and in order to train PTSD experts, training sessions for experts on PTSD measures for doctors and co-medical staffs are conducted.

D Promotion of suicide measures

The annual number of suicide in Japan had exceeded 30,000 for 14 consecutive years since 1998, but in recent years it has been declining and the number of suicides in 2017 was 21,321 (14,826 males, 6,495 females). The government is promoting comprehensive suicide measures under the Basic Act on Suicide Prevention (Act No. 85 of 2006) and the “General Principals of Suicide Prevention”(decided by the Cabinet in June 2007, reviewed approximately every 5 years, recent revisions were conducted in August 2012 and July 2017) based on that law. In that principal, 87 measures (including re-listed) of 12 items including “Advancing the promotion of mental health and providing a supportive environment for it” and “Seeing it to that the appropriate mental health, medical care and welfare services are received” are taken as priority policies for the time being.

In FY2018, we will tackle the care measures of the mind of young persons who send suicide wishes through the Internet (guidance to consultation desks utilizing ICT, SNS counseling, support for creating communities for youth to belong). With regard to suicide countermeasures in local communities, the practical suicide countermeasures according to the actual situation of each community is supported by Grant for the Enhancement of Local Suicide Prevention.

In addition, telephone consultation projects (the Stay with You Hotline) are conducted to receive consultation from those who have difficulty to live, and hardship to live for free for 24 hours a day, 365 days, to solve problems concretely, as a subsidized project (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare assists nationwide private support groups).

E Reinforcement of measures to dependence

In order to cope with the problem that dependent persons and their families have not been linked to appropriate treatment and support because of the characteristics of dependence such as alcohol, drugs, gambling (denial, shortage of medical institutions, etc.) and the lack of correct knowledge and understanding with regard to dependence, Prefectures/designated cities throughout the country have selected and set up specialized medical institutions, treatment base institutions, consultation bases for dependence since FY2017.

(2) Early detection and treatment of mental disorders

As of the end of June, 2017, the number of psychiatric hospitals in our country is about 1,600 and the number of beds is about 330,000 beds, accounting for about 20% of the number of beds in all hospitals. As of the end of June 2017, the number of hospitalized patients in psychiatric hospitals was about 284,000, of which about 150,000 were hospitalized arbitrarily, about 130,000 were hospitalized for medical care, about 1,600 were admission by legal control. For patients who were admitted by legal control, a medical cost burden system based on public expenses is established. In addition to this, the psychiatric emergency medical system is improved so that patients can receive psychiatric emergency medical care at ease at night or Saturday and Sunday.

(3) Efforts situation of Mental Health Medical Care Welfare Measures

The partial revision of Act on Mental Health and Welfare for the Mentally Disabled (Act No. 123 of 1950) (hereinafter referred to as the “Mental Health and Welfare Act”) including Formulation of guidelines for ensuring medical care provision for person with mental disabilities, deletion of provisions concerning guardians, and revision of Medical Care Admission by Legal Control was established on June 13, 2013 and promulgated on June 16, 2013.

Under this law, in order to promote discharge of patients of medical care admission by legal control, the administrators of psychiatric hospitals are obliged to: (1) designate those who consult and provide guidance on the living environment of patients of medical care admission by legal control after discharge from hospital for medical care (mental health workers etc.) (2) conduct cooperation with community support business person (a consultation support business person, etc. that provides necessary information according to consultation from the inpatients themselves or their family, etc.), (3) conduct improvement of the system for promoting discharge from hospital (establishment of patients of medical care admission by legal control discharge support committee) (② is effort obligation).

In March 2018, “Guidelines on post-discharge support for persons with mental disabilities by Local governments” was created so that persons with mental disabilities can smoothly conduct transition to community life after discharge, and “Guidelines on operation of admission by legal control was created so that the operation of admission by legal control can be appropriately conducted in nationwide local governments, and notified to the prefecture

governors, etc.

(4) About coping with persons who have caused serious cases under the condition of insanity

In the Fourth Basic Programme for Person with Disabilities formulated in March 2018, in order to promote the rehabilitation in society of the subject person of “Act on Medical Care and Treatment for Persons Who Have Caused Serious Cases Under the Condition of Insanity,” promotion of the dissolution of discrimination against the subject person of the said law was newly added, and it was decided that the related agencies based on the law shall conduct dissemination enlightening activities for Disability Welfare Services business person through the seminar or workshop, and cope with promotion of understanding of the subjects of the law and rehabilitation in society.

4. Promotion of research and development

In FY2017, “Refractory disease policy research” is carried out in order to conduct the research directly linked to policy to improve the quality of medical treatment such as preparation of clinical practice guidelines for establishment of medical treatment system, enlightenment of dissemination, establishment of treatment for intractable diseases, and “research project on practical application of intractable diseases” and the intractable disease research toward development of treatment method in cooperation with each other is promoted.

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry is conducting “Project focused on developing key evaluation technologies, aiming at industrialization in the field of regenerative medicine” and “Medical Device/System research and development Project to Realize Future Medicine” and is promoting development of innovative pharmaceuticals and medical devices originated from Japan in order to promote the development of innovative pharmaceuticals and medical devices with outstanding achievements of fundamental research.

5. Training and securing of specialized occupation

(1) Doctor

With regard to physicians, as a graduate education, education such as setting up courses on rehabilitation and establishing lesson subjects is conducted. In postgraduate education, in order to prepare and evaluate clinical plan as clinical training goal to be achieved by resident in doctor clinical training system, it is required to participate in comprehensive management plan that takes QOL into consideration. In addition, measures to improve qualifications, such as identifying frequent injuries or illnesses (dementia diseases, rheumatoid arthritis, etc.) are taken in general practice and treatment.

(2) Nursing staff

In pre-graduate education for nursing staff, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare helps make sure training of high quality nursing staff who can provide care for clients in various situations by showing their goal of competency at the time of graduation. In postgraduate

education, financial assistance is provided through community medical care nursing comprehensive ensured fund for nursing staff practical training, etc. conducted by Prefectures.