

#### **4.3 USING NATURAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTS**

- A. The use of natural and community supports is a key component of the “Guidelines for Support Planning.” Natural and community supports are represented in the support plan.
  
- B. Natural and community supports allow the participant to accomplish the following:
  - 1. Build relationships,
  
  - 2. Play different social roles,
  
  - 3. Stabilize his/her care since there is less turnover in natural and community supports, and
  
  - 4. Reduce isolation and enhance integration.
  
- C. The support coordinator, prior to utilization of paid supports, explores supports and activities available through the following:
  - 1. Family and friends,
  
  - 2. Neighbors, church members, support organizations, and volunteers,
  
  - 3. Informal and public transportation, and

4. Community classes and organizations.

D. The support coordinator will utilize strategies to appropriately involve a participant's roommate who is not receiving services and is a competent major (not a dependant child) as a natural support.

1. If a participant chooses to live with a person not using OCDD services who meets the definition of a relative as defined in Section 8.5, then the participant meets criteria for the Lives with Family allocation.

2. If a participant chooses to live with a person not using OCDD services who is unrelated, then the participant meets criteria for the Lives Independently allocation.

3. With the participant's permission, the roommate might become part of the support team and be included in the provision of appropriate unpaid natural supports hours and in evacuation and emergency plans. The support team should plan for any necessary training, as described in Section 8.2.

E. The "Guidelines for Support Planning" assumes that natural supports are utilized in conjunction with paid supports.