

# Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center



## Accessibility Policy

### Policy:

The Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center attempts to insure service accessibility for all residents of Charleston and Dorchester counties regardless of race, gender, religious affiliation, ethnicity, age, physical disability, sexual orientation or ability to pay.

### Procedure:

1. The Center promotes ongoing efforts to remove all bias and barriers to care. Alternative service delivery is provided when architectural barriers exist and assistance with transportation to services is provided.
2. The Cultural Competence Committee provides periodic in-service trainings that are designed to promote awareness of and sensitivity to the cultural and ethnic differences within the population served.
3. Ongoing educational opportunities aid in the removal of attitudinal barriers and enhance the Center's efforts in actively recruiting clients or their family members to serve on the Board of Directors. The Center also employs Peer Support Specialists, and has a very active and frequently large participation by clients in the Executive Director's monthly Client Advisory Board.
4. The Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center cannot meet all the needs of its patients. The Center will make arrangements for or provide referrals to foreign language interpreters, communication aides/devices for persons with hearing impairments, reading materials/audiotapes for persons with visual impairments, alternative educational materials for persons with cognitive impairments.
5. The Center monitors the process by which clients discharged from a local or state hospital are given an appointment for aftercare as soon as possible after the hospital discharge.

	
Deborah S. Blalock, Executive Director	Susan T. Monogan, Quality Improvement Director
11/13/08	11/14/08
Date	Date