

Charleston/Dorchester Community Mental Health Center

Policy Regarding RIGHTS OF PERSONS RECEIVING SERVICES

This policy of the Charleston/Dorchester Community Mental Health Center establishes C/DCMHC's support and protection of fundamental human, civil, constitutional and statutory rights of persons receiving services in this Center.

POLICY:

Persons receiving services shall be treated with dignity and respect and encouraged to exercise their rights to the fullest extent possible. It is the duty of the C/DCMHC to evaluate, provide treatment, and meet the needs of persons receiving services in a humane and appropriate manner in order to maximize their quality of life.

PROCEDURES:

1. Abuse and Neglect:

A person receiving services shall be free from neglect, abuse and exploitation. The SCDMH directive No. 780-94 entitled "Prohibited Abusive, Neglectful and Exploitative Conduct Toward Patients and Clients" shall be followed.

2. Confidentiality

A person receiving services has a right to have information regarding treatment remain private. The SCDMH directive No. 837-03 entitled "Privacy Practices" shall be followed.

3. Consent:

Written consent shall be obtained prior to release of confidential information, as required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Written consent shall be obtained prior to the use of audiovisual equipment, electroconvulsive therapy, research projects, and neuroleptic medication. Consent shall be made by the person receiving services or a legally authorized representative and shall be made voluntarily.

4. Discrimination:

A person receiving services shall have impartial access to treatment regardless of race, religion, sex, ethnicity, age, handicap, degree of disability or sources of financial support.

5. Environment:

A person receiving services shall be entitled to receive treatment in a safe humane environment.

6. Cost of Services:

Information regarding the cost of services and the source of any financial assistance shall be provided to all persons receiving service.

7. Rights, Protection and Advocacy:

Newly admitted persons receiving services, their guardian or parent, must be provided information and orientation, in terms and language appropriate to their ability to understand, their rights and the procedure for having complaints reviewed. This Center shall adhere to the SCDMH Directive No. 833-02 entitled "Consumer Rights Review Procedure".

8. Treatment:

- (a) A person in need of services has a right to access to treatment. C/DCMHC shall evaluate all persons who apply to determine their need for services and which programs are most suited to provide the services needed.
- (b) A person receiving service has a right to quality treatment. C/DCMHC shall provide treatment and services in accordance with generally accepted standards.
- (c) A person receiving services shall have an individual treatment plan and shall participate in the planning of services
- (d) A person receiving services has a right to consent to services and treatment unless ordered by a court.



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Executive Director



Date

(Revision of Policy Dated 4/28/97)