

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Section: Recipient Rights

Policy Number: 22

Subject: **Surrogate Decision Makers Durable
Power of Attorney for Healthcare
Decisions, other Advance Directives**

Effective Date: 7/27/98

Last Revision Date: 10/9//09

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Policy

It is the policy of Shiawassee County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) that advance directives by clients are documented and communicated to other Healthcare providers so that it is ensured the client's wishes are known.

Purpose

To provide processes which support the consumer's right to establish conditions for directing end-of-life decisions while protecting the consumer's right to necessary care in emergency situations not governed by advance directives.

To safeguard the liability of the organization through the application of standard risk management practices.

Application

This policy applies to all staff.

Definitions

Advance Directive: An advance directive is a written document which specifies medical care desired and an appointed decision maker should the individual lose the ability to make decisions for himself/herself.

Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare: A durable power of attorney for healthcare, also known as a healthcare proxy, is a document which appoints a specific person to make medical treatment and related personal care decisions for an individual.

Living Will: A living will is a written document which informs doctors, family members, and others what type of medical care the individual wishes to receive should the individual become terminally ill or permanently unconscious.

Do Not Resuscitate Order: A do not resuscitate order (DNR order) is a written document which states/proclaims if breathing and heartbeat cease the individual does not want anyone to attempt to resuscitate.

Standards

1. All consumers seeking SCCMHA services will be asked whether or not they have signed an advance medical directive and/or Durable Power of Attorney. If signed, a copy of the form is required for the chart. The consumer would have to be determined incompetent by two physicians or a physician and a psychologist for the Advance Directive/Durable Power of Attorney to be activated.
2. Persons seeking SCCMHA services who have not signed an Advance Directive and are interested in designating a surrogate decision maker and/or advance directive will be provided reference materials and community information at the time of the intake along with recipient rights information.
3. All persons residing in specialized homes who do not have a guardian will be provided information concerning Advance Directive options at the intake process and at each annual Person Centered Plan meeting.

Approved by: Signed by Jerry Walden 10/09/09
Board Chairperson Date

Signed by Scott Gilman 10/09/09
Chief Executive Officer Date

