

# SHIAWASSEE COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Section: Recipient Rights  
Policy Number: 55  
Subject: **Right to Vote**

Effective Date: 8/27/07  
Last Revision Date: 7/27/09  
Page: 1 of 3

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### **Policy**

It is the policy of the Shiawassee County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) that a consumer of Board-sponsored services shall have the right to participate in the electoral process unless specifically excluded by statute. This includes federal, state, local, special, recall and primary elections.

It is the policy of the SCCMHA that consumers will be assisted in the voter registration process (in meeting registration requirements by obtaining current and valid photo identification if needed) within thirty (30) days before an election as required by the Michigan State registration deadline. Assistance will be provided to consumers in obtaining an absentee ballot if necessary.

It is the policy of the SCCMHA that an employee may be assigned to accompany a consumer to vote or register to vote. Consumers may be required to pay the cost of transportation. If a consumer is unable to pay the cost of transportation, an employee may be assigned to provide transportation to and from the designated polling place between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

It is the policy of the SCCMHA that consumers will not be prohibited from receiving campaign literature. Consumers residing in community living support sites or group homes may display campaign literature, ads, etc. in their rooms.

It is the policy of the SCCMHA that employees will not share their views on political parties or candidates with consumers and will not attempt to influence the consumer's vote. SCCMHA employees will ensure that the consumer can vote in private without interference or intimidation and respect the privacy and voting rights of consumers.

### **Purpose**

To establish policy and standards to ensure that consumers (age 18 years or older) of SCCMHA the right to vote and are fully able to exercise their voting rights at the polls.

## Application

This policy shall apply to all SCCMHA programs including consumers, employees, volunteers and agent of providers including independent contractors and contract agencies.

## Standards

1. A recipient has the right of participation in the electoral process including primary elections, special elections, and recall elections; and this shall not be abridged.
2. An eligible recipient, including a recipient determined to be legal incompetent, shall have the right to exercise his or her franchise, except those the legislature may exclude from the electoral process by defining mental incompetence in any statute implementing article 2, section 2 of the state constitution of 1963. Facilities under contract with SCCMHA shall have procedures which assure all the following:
  - a. All recipients 18 years of age or over are canvassed to ascertain their interest in registering to vote, obtaining absentee ballots, and casting ballots. the canvass shall be conducted to allow sufficient time for voter registration and acquisition of absentee ballot, or provided recipients with an opportunity to leave the premises to exercise voting privileges, or to register to vote, or a facility director may require supervisory personnel to accompany recipients and may require and may require recipients to bear reasonable transportation costs.
  - b. Arrangements with state and local election officials are made to provide voter registration and casting of ballots for interested recipients at the facility or may elect to encourage the use of absentee ballots.
  - c. Facilities shall assist election officials in determining a recipient's place of residence for voting purposes.
  - d. Facilities shall not prohibit a recipient from receiving campaign literature, shall permit campaigning by candidates, and may reasonable regulate the time duration, and location of these activities. A facility director shall permit a recipient to place political advertisements in his or her personal quarters.

Approved by: Signed by Jerry Walden  
Board Chairperson

07/27/09  
Date

Signed by Scott Gilman  
Chief Executive Officer

07/27/09  
Date

