

# SHIAWASSEE COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Section: Recipient Rights

Policy Number: 13

Subject: **Treatment By Spiritual Means**

Effective Date: 10/9/95

Last Revision Date: 4/2/09

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### **Policy**

It is the policy of Shiawassee County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) to safeguard and facilitate a recipient's access to and use of treatment by spiritual means when the recipient or guardian requests the use of and access to such treatment.

### **Purpose**

To ensure the protection of rights of recipients of the SCCMHA.

To ensure compliance with the Michigan Mental Health Code and the Michigan Department of Community Health Administrative Rules.

### **Application**

This policy applies to all employees, independent contractors, and contract agencies of the SCCMHA.

### **Definitions**

Treatment by Spiritual Means: Services, consultation, and education of a spiritual discipline or school of thought upon which a recipient relies to promote mental health and physical well-being and comfort and to aid mental and physical recovery. Pastoral care may include printed, recorded, and/or visual material and symbolic objects essential or related to the spiritual discipline or school of thought.

### **Standards**

1. Opportunity for contact with organizations providing treatment by spiritual means will be provided to a recipient residing in a Board-sponsored living arrangement in the same manner as recipients are permitted to see private mental health professionals.
2. The right to treatment by spiritual means includes the right of a recipient, a recipient's guardian or a parent of a minor to refuse medication or other treatment on spiritual grounds that predate the current allegations of mental illness or disability but does not extend to circumstances where either:

