

# SHIAWASSEE COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Section: Clinical  
Policy Number: 36  
Subject: **Advance Directives for Medical Care and  
Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)**

Effective Date: 5/21/07  
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### Policy

Shiawassee County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) is fully committed to its Mission, Vision, Values, and Strategic Plan to include educating consumers regarding health care options.

### Purpose

This policy is established to provide guidelines on Advance Directives and legal/valid Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders.

### Applicability

All SCCMHA employees and contracted personnel.

### Definitions

An Advance Directive is a written document in the form of a living will or durable power of attorney prepared by a competent individual that specifies what, if any, extraordinary procedures, surgeries, medication or treatments the individual desires in the future, when he or she can no longer make such decisions about medical treatment. Guardians of persons with developmental disabilities do not have the legal authority to sign an advance directive, including a DNR.

A Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) is written document prohibiting attempts to restore life (e.g., respirations, circulation etc. by artificial means once they have stopped). The DNR may be revoked at any time. To be legal or valid a DNR must be signed by the declarant who must be at least 18 years of age and of sound mind, the declarant's attending physician and 2 witnesses who are not related to the declarant. Guardians of persons with developmental disabilities do not have the legal authority to sign a DNR.

A Living Will, although not recognized by Michigan statute, is an advance directive, prepared when an individual is alive, competent and able to make decisions regarding that person's specific instructions about end-of-life care. Living wills allow people to specify whether they would want to be intubated, ventilated, treated with medications, shocked with electricity (to stop life-threatening heart rhythms) and fed or hydrated

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intravenously (if unable to take food or drink). Some also specify the person or persons (Patient Advocate) who have power of attorney to make health care decisions on the patient's behalf if the patient is no longer competent to make choices for himself/herself.

A Patient Advocate means an individual designated to exercise powers concerning another individual's care, custody, and medical or mental health treatment, or authorized to make an anatomical gift on behalf of another individual, or both.

A Power of Attorney, Durable, for Health Care under Michigan Law is an advance directive that designates another person (Patient Advocate) to make health care decisions regarding how aggressive treatment should be if the patient becomes incompetent or unable to make decisions in the future; for example, in the case of coma or a persistent vegetative state. The document also lists medical treatments that the person would not want to have. Durable power of attorney goes into effect when the document is signed.

## **Procedure**

### Advance Directive Information

1. Upon intake or admission of a new consumer, the consumer, his/her parent or guardian will be offered information regarding Advance Directives per the booklet "Your Rights", under the section regarding Treatment Rights; the agency handbook "Your Guide to Services" and the brochure "Advance Directives in Michigan, Information Presented by Your Behavioral Health Care Provider." This information will include, but is not limited to, the beneficiary's rights to make decisions concerning his/her medical care, the right to accept or refuse treatment, and the right to formulate advance directives.
2. If the consumer, parent, or guardian wishes to pursue information regarding Advance Directives, he/she will be directed to his/her primary care physician.
3. Complaints concerning non-compliance with the Advance Directive requirements may be filed with the State survey certification agency.
4. The Advanced Directive will be maintained in a prominent place in the consumer's medical record and be addressed in the individual care plan.
5. Education will be provided to all staff concerning this Policy and Procedure.

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)

1. A DNR will be implemented by a health professional employed or under contract with the SCCMHA in an adult foster care home only if the consumer has been enrolled in Hospice Care.
2. In all other locations or situations in which a DNR may be implemented, appropriate first aid will be administered and emergency medical personnel summoned to the location to make the appropriate DNR determinations.
3. The DNR order will be maintained in a prominent place in the consumer's medical record and be addressed in the individual care plans.

**Implementation**

1. Any changes in State Law related to these two topics will be provided to consumers as soon as possible, but no later than 90 days after the effective date of the change.
2. The provision of services and supports will not be conditioned on whether the consumer implements or decides not to implement an Advanced Directive for Medical Care or DNR.

Approved by: *Jerry Walden*  
Board Chairperson

7/8/08  
Date

*Scott Gilman*  
Chief Executive Officer

7/8/08  
Date

