



# St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority

## Code of Ethics

### Mental Health Care

The ethics of mental health care do not require complex analysis, just firm commitment for they are simple. Listen well; respond appropriately. Watch words you use as they become actions. Treat the family compassionately. Honor the importance of education. Respect the people with whom you work. Respect yourself. Understand your skill. Respect that each person is an expert in his or her own life. Understand your own power. Empower others. Do not exceed your limits. Be with the person where he or she is. Validate strengths. Recognize each person's right to "confidentiality." Recognize the healing partnership between the people receiving services, provider and payor. Recognize the importance for hope. Embrace an environment conducive to Recovery.

**WHEREAS**, the St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority Board and its staff hold to the highest moral, legal, and professional standards for their conduct and services, and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority Board and its staff maintain respect both for the privacy and well-being of the persons served and for the welfare and protections of the general public, and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority Board strives to enhance the principles of competency, accountability, responsibility, non-discrimination and service excellence,

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED**...that the St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority Board and its staff voluntarily subscribe to and uphold the following principles:

1. The interest of the person served is always respected. Activities on behalf of the persons served, whether individuals, families or organizations, shall always be determined by their best interests. Their rights, including appropriate care, confidentiality, informed consent, self-determination and access to records, are guaranteed.
2. Activities shall reflect the best interest of the general public. Authority of an accountability to the community are recognized by this governing board in determining priorities, policies and programs. Prevailing legal and moral standards shall be upheld. Questionable practices and programs are not condoned. The public's right to have information about programs, finances, policies and procedures is acknowledged.



3. High professional standards will be maintained and promoted. The St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority Board and its staff at all times require conduct based on accepted principles and professional standards of practice. All staff shall avoid conflicts of interest and misrepresentation of their services, credentials or skills. They recognize accountability to the organization, persons they serve, and accept responsibility for their own actions. Non-discriminatory policies are promoted and observed among all persons. Also, the St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority Board and its staff have a primary responsibility to maintain high standards of professional competence and to provide the highest quality of care possible.

4. Regard for the integrity of St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority Board's private organizations and other agencies shall be maintained. The rights and interests of all contract agencies shall be protected and promoted. No actions shall be taken which are detrimental to any contract agency by the St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority Board without due process and Board action. Respect shall be maintained for the rights, policies and procedures of other professional organizations and governmental agencies.

5. Regard for the integrity of its funding services will be maintained. Any activities suspected of being fraudulent, abusive or wasteful shall be reported. The rights and interests of the reporting staff shall be protected.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**...that this Code of Ethics be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors for the information and guidance of Board members and staff. All new Board members and staff will be advised in writing of this code upon entering their duties and that this code shall be reviewed annually with them.