

SUBJECT: THERAPEUTIC ENVIRONMENT

EFFECTIVE
DATE: 03-08-11 (replaces 04-01-05)

APPROVED BY:

Reviewed (no changes): _____

Executive Director

POLICY

It is the policy of McIntosh Trail Community Service Board to provide an environment of care that enhances the positive self-image of consumers served and preserves their human dignity.

PROCEDURE

1. Waiting/reception areas are comfortable; their design, location and furnishings accommodate the characteristics of visitors and consumers served. There is access for the physically challenged to all necessary services and programs in accordance with the Americans Disability Act (ADA).
2. Restrooms are available for consumers served.
3. Appropriate space for services is provided.
4. The design, structure, furnishings and lighting of the individual environment promote clear visual perceptions of people and functions.
5. Lighting is controlled by consumers served, when appropriate. The environment provides views of the outdoors, where possible.
6. Appropriate mirrors that distort as little as possible are placed at reasonable heights in appropriate places to aid in grooming and enhance the self-awareness of consumers served.
7. The environment minimizes distractions that interfere with therapeutic activities and the environment maximizes the involvement of the consumer in leisure activities.
8. Clocks and calendars are available in major use areas in order to promote awareness of time and season.
9. Telephones are accessible for private conversations.
10. Ventilation is sufficient to remove odors and provide direct outside air to each individual room through air-conditioning or operable windows. All areas and surfaces are free of undesirable odors.
11. Locked doors and other structural restraints are used in accordance with the organization's mission and program goals.
12. Furnishings and equipment suitable to the population served are available.

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PROCEDURE (Continued)

13. Furnishing and equipment are clean and in good repair. Broken furnishings and equipment are repaired promptly.
14. Dining areas are comfortable, attractive, and conducive to pleasant living. Meals and snack times are appropriate to the ages served and facilitate commonly recognized conventions concerning the times when meals and snacks are served. Depending on the program goals, facilities are available for serving snacks, preparing meals for special occasions, and for recreational activities. Participation is permitted by consumers served when possible.
15. Dining rooms are adequately supervised. Staff assist consumers when needed. Staff ensure that each consumer served receives an adequate amount and variety of food.
16. Respect for privacy will be observed. Sleeping rooms have doors for privacy unless clinically contraindicated. Staff will knock on doors before entering sleeping rooms.
17. The number of individuals in a room is appropriate to the organization's goals and to the ages, developmental levels, and clinical needs of consumers served. In rooms containing more than one individual, privacy is provided by partitioning with furniture placement.
18. Except when clinically justified in writing, based on program requirements, no more than eight consumers sleep in a room. Sleeping areas are assigned based on individual need for group support, privacy, or independence.
19. In accordance with the needs of the consumers served, good standards of personal hygiene and grooming are taught and maintained, particularly in regard to bathing, brushing teeth, caring for hair and nails, and using the toilet, with due regard to privacy.
20. Consumers served have the personal help needed to perform these activities and, when indicated, assume responsibility for self-care. Incontinent consumers are cleaned and/or bathed immediately following voiding, soiling, with due regard for privacy.
21. Articles for grooming and personal hygiene that are appropriate to the consumer's age, developmental level, and clinical status are readily available in a space reserved near his or her sleeping area.

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PROCEDURE (Continued)

22. Adequate closet/drawer space for storage of personal property shall be provided for residential consumers. If clinically indicated, a consumer's personal articles may be kept under lock and key by staff.
23. Cleanliness of consumer areas will be monitored.
24. In residential settings, consumers are allowed to keep and display personal belongings and to add other suitable personal touches to their surroundings.
25. Consumers are encouraged to take responsibility for maintaining their own living quarters and day-to-day housekeeping activities of the program, as appropriate to their clinical status.
26. Consumers served in residential settings are allowed to wear their own clothing as part of the normalization process. If clothing is provided by the organization it should be appropriate. It should be attractive, in good condition, the proper size, and comparable to that worn in the community.
27. Unless contraindicated for therapeutic reason, the organization accommodates the needs of the individuals to be outdoors through the use of nearby parks and playgrounds, adjacent countryside, and organization grounds.
28. Pets are allowed at Residential Treatment and Group Home facility sites in accordance with Policy 1227.
29. A tobacco free environment will be implement in accordance with Policy 1203.
30. Drinking fountains or water coolers are available and appropriate for the age and disability groups served.