

SUBJECT: CARE OF THE DYING CONSUMER/ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

EFFECTIVE

DATE: 04-04-11 (replaces 03-31-05)

APPROVED BY:

REVIEWED (no changes)

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Executive Director

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POLICY

Care of the dying consumer is not the stated mission or service provided by McIntosh Trail CSB. However, it is the policy of the organization that during the temporary care of the dying consumer the psychosocial, spiritual, and cultural values that affect the consumer's response to care are considered in care planning. They are designed to allow the consumer to express spiritual beliefs and cultural practices that do not harm others or interfere with the planned course of care and services. Sensitivity to the needs, values, comfort and dignity of the consumer served is especially important in the care of the dying. Staff are made aware of and are responsive and respectful to these special needs.

All known advance directives are documented in the clinical record and are communicated to staff. The advance directive is honored, if made known to the organization, and particular attention is taken in following pain management plans when indicated. The absence of advance directives does not hamper access to care. For some consumers, discussion of advance directives may not be appropriate at admission, but may be addressed later in the course of treatment. If the consumer does not have an advance directive, but wants to develop one, the organization will offer a referral source. Most local hospitals have a form and will send a copy when contacted. Advance directives are forwarded to the receiving service upon referral or transfer.

Life sustaining services are not included in the services provided by McIntosh Trail CSB. It is the organization's policy, in the absence of advance directives, that McIntosh Trail CSB staff trained in lifesaving first aid will provide such aid, make appropriate referrals to medical emergency services (911) and advise the family or surrogate decision maker.