

MCINTOSH TRAIL
COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD

POLICY NO. 2022
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SUBJECT: ASSISTING CONSUMER TO ACCESS A
PERSONAL ADVOCATE

APPROVED BY:

EFFECTIVE
DATE: 04-04-11 (replaces 02-05-10)

Executive Director

Reviewed (no changes): _____

POLICY

It is the policy of McIntosh Trail CSB that staff assist consumers receiving Developmental Disabilities Services or their families to access a personal advocate when the need is indicated, such as: by request of consumer or family or as determined by the interdisciplinary staffing team.

The organization will guide and assist the consumer to access and utilize the services of the Georgia Advocacy Office or the Long Term Care Ombudsman. The personal advocate's role and responsibilities are determined by that Office. They represent the interest of the consumer, assist consumer if denied services because of disability, speak for the consumer, and advocate for the rights and interests of the consumer. The personal advocate has access to the consumer's clinical record during the agency's regular business hours with a signed release from the consumer.

The above information is made known to staff and consumers on a poster at each service site and includes the address and telephone number of the Advocacy Office, 1 Decatur Town Center, 150 E. Ponce de Leon Avenue, Suite 430, Decatur, Georgia 30030, 404-885-1234;

Long Term Care Ombudsman, P. O. Box 308, Meansville, GA 30256, 770-567-5951
contact person: Penny Medhurst (for Spalding, Butts, Lamar, Pike, and Upson counties);
Long Term Care Ombudsman for Fayette and Henry counties: 246 Sycamore St., Suite 248,
Decatur, GA 30030, 404-371-3800, contact person: Karen Boyles.

Although the State of Georgia does not have a personal advocacy service for substance abuse, the Georgia Association for Prevention of Treatment of Substance Abuse can offer information and assistance with that disability: 95 Renaissance Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia 30308, phone 404-249-6272, Extension 271.