

Principles for Persons with a Serious Mental Illness

The service delivery system shall operate in accordance with the following principles for persons who have been determined to have a serious mental illness and their families:

- i. Human dignity;
- ii. Respect for the person's individuality, abilities, needs and aspirations without regard to the client's psychiatric condition;
- iii. Self-determination, freedom of choice and participation in treatment to the individuals fullest capacity;
- iv. Freedom from the discomfort, distress and deprivation which arise from an unresponsive and inhumane environment;
- v. Privacy including the opportunity, wherever possible, to be provided clearly defined private living, sleeping and personal care spaces;
- vi. Humane and adequate support and treatment that is responsive to the person's needs, that recognizes that a person's needs may vary, and that is sufficiently flexible to adjust to a person's changing needs;
- vii. The opportunity to receive services which are adequate, appropriate, consistent with the person's individual needs, and least restrictive of the person's freedom;
- viii. The opportunity to receive treatment and services that are culturally sensitive in their structure, process and content;
- ix. The opportunity to receive services on a voluntary basis to the maximum extent possible and entirely if possible;
- x. Integration of individuals into their home communities through housing and residential services which are located in residential neighborhoods, which rely as much as possible on generic support services to provide training and assistance in ordinary community experiences, and which utilize specialized mental health programs that are situated in or near natural community services;
- xi. The opportunity to live in one's own home and the flexibility of a service system which responds to individual needs by increasing, decreasing and changing service as needs change;
- xii. The opportunity to undergo normal experiences, even though such experiences may entail an element of risk; provided however, that an individual's safety or well-being or that of others shall not be unreasonably jeopardized;
- xiii. The opportunity to engage in activities and styles of living, consistent with the person's interests, which encourage and maintain the integration of the individual into the community.