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Origination	N/A	Owner	Matthew Yascolt: Director of Substance Use Disorder
Last Approved	N/A	Policy Area	Substance Use Disorders
Effective	Upon Approval	Applicability	Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network
Last Revised	N/A		
Next Review	1 year after approval		

## Charitable Choice

# CHARITABLE CHOICE POLICY

It is the policy of Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) Charitable Choice Policy to ensure that members in SUD treatment and recipients of SUD prevention services are notified of their right to request alternative services.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that religious organizations can receive government funding to provide substance use services without having to compromise their religious identity, and protect members, ensuring that there is no discrimination against a person seeking services based on their religion, beliefs, or lack thereof, mandating that participation in religious activities is completely voluntary.

## APPLICATION

1. The following groups are required to implement and adhere to this policy:
  - a. DWIHN Board,
  - b. DWIHN Staff including the following
    1. DWIHN PIHP Staff
    2. DWIHN Community Care Clinic Staff (Direct Care Staff)
    3. DWIHN Community Care Clinic Staff (DWIHN staff operating as a CCBHC)

4. DWIHN Crisis Care Center Staff
  5. DWIHN Mobile Crisis Staff
- c. Contractual Staff
  - d. Clinically Responsible Service Provider (CRSP) and their subcontractors
  - e. Specialty Providers
  - f. Crisis Services Vendors
  - g. Credentialing Verification Organization (CVO)
  - h. Designated Collaborating Organizations (DCO)
2. This policy serves the following populations:
- a. Adults
  - b. Children
  - c. Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)
  - d. Serious Mental Illness (SMI),
  - e. Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED),
  - f. Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
  - g. Autism
  - h. Mild/Moderate levels of care
3. This policy impacts the following contracts/service lines:
- a. Autism
  - b. Certified Behavioral Health Clinics
  - c. General Fund
  - d. Grants
  - e. MI Coordinated Health (MICH) HIDE SNP
  - f. Medicaid
  - g. SUD

## KEYWORDS

**Charitable Choice:** refers to a set of federal laws and regulations that govern the participation of faith-based and religious organizations in federally funded social service programs.

**Equal Eligibility:** Religious organizations are eligible to compete for SAMHSA grants and funding on the same basis as any other private, non-profit organization. The government cannot discriminate for or against an organization based on its religious character or affiliation.

**Protected Religious Identity:** A faith-based organization that receives SAMHSA funding can maintain its religious character. This means they can keep their religious name, mission statement, and even display

religious symbols like art or scripture in their facilities. They are also allowed to make employment decisions based on a person's religion if it is an important part of the organization's identity.

**Beneficiary Protections:** This is a crucial aspect of Charitable Choice. While religious organizations can retain their identity, they cannot discriminate against a person seeking services based on their religion, beliefs, or lack thereof. They also cannot require a person to participate in religious activities as a condition of receiving services. Participation in any religious activities must be completely voluntary. If a beneficiary objects to the religious nature of the provider, they must be offered a secular alternative.

**No Direct Funding for Religious Activities:** SAMHSA funds can only be used for the social services being provided, such as substance abuse treatment or prevention. Funds cannot be used for "inherently religious activities" like worship, religious instruction, or proselytization. If an organization chooses to offer these activities, they must be offered separately in time or location from the government-funded services.

## STANDARDS

It is a requirement of DWIHN that all clients entering substance abuse treatment will be informed by the ACCESS Center and all service providers whether their programs are faith-based or has a religious designation.

The Final Rule issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (45 CFR part 54 and 54a) contains federal Charitable Choice SAPT block grant regulations, which apply to both prevention, treatment providers as well as subcontractors. In summary, the regulations require:

1. That the designation of religious (or faith-based) organizations as such be based on the organization's self-identification as religious (or faith based),
2. That these organizations are eligible to participate as providers—e.g. a "level playing field" with regard to participating in DWIHN provider network,
3. That a program client receiving services from such an organization who objects to the religious character of a program has a right to notice, referral and alternative services which meet standards of timeliness, capacity, accessibility and equivalency—and ensuring contact to this alternative provider
4. That the client cannot be required to attend or participate in any explicitly religious activities, but may do so voluntarily.
5. *Ensure that religious activities, such as religious worship or instruction are separate-in time or location- from the government-funded services that they offer.*
6. The faith-based organization's obligation is not to discriminate against clients on the basis of religion or religious belief.
7. That clients may report violations of these protections to the DWIHN, SUD Contract Manager

## PROCEDURE

1. DWIHN requires that all providers comply with all applicable requirements of the Charitable

Choice regulations.

2. All service providers must ensure that treatment clients and prevention service recipients are notified of their right to request alternative services. Providers that are faith-based, the Access Center will provide notice of particular protections afforded to them. Notification must be in the form of the model notice (see ATTACHMENT II)
3. The client must decide whether he/she is willing to participate in the faith-based or religious program. If a client does not want to participate in the faith-based or religious program, The Access Center will refer the client to an alternate program of his/her choice.
4. If the client is admitted into a treatment program and later discovers that the program is of a religious nature, the client has the right to request that the provider transfer the client to an alternative program. The agency would be required to undertake reasonable efforts to identify and refer the client to an alternative provider to which the client does not object. Requests for alternative services must be processed through the Access Center. Agencies must notify DWIHN, SUD Contract Manager when such a referral is made. DWIHN compiles a list of requests for transfer and submits reports to MDHHS.
5. Providers must implement faith-based policies and procedures that identify and describes these activities.
6. DWIHN has an obligation to monitor and enforce all standards regarding the relationship between religion and government.
7. Providers must complete the spreadsheet entitled "Charitable Choice Attachment 3". (See ATTACHMENT III) Prevention Providers should direct this report to the Prevention Coordinator, and Treatment Providers should send their reports to the SUD Contract Manager

## **QUALITY ASSURANCE/IMPROVEMENT**

DWIHN shall review and monitor contractor adherence to this policy as one element in its network management program, risk management program, and Quality Assessment/Performance Improvement Program (QAPIP) Work-plan.

The quality improvement programs of Network Providers must include measures for both the monitoring of and the continuous improvement of the programs or processes described in this policy.

## **COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE LAWS**

DWIHN staff, Contracted Network Providers, and their subcontractors are bound by all applicable local, state and federal laws, rules, regulations and policies, all federal waiver requirements, state and county contractual requirements, policies, and administrative directives, as amended.

## **LEGAL AUTHORITY**

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality.
2. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Medicaid Provider Manual (in effect, and as as amended)

3. Medicaid Managed Specialty Supports and Services Concurrent 1915(b)/(c) Waiver Program (PIHP/CMHSP contracts in effect, and as amended)

# CLINICAL POLICY

NO

# INTERNAL/EXTERNAL POLICY

EXTERNAL

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## Attachments

[1\\_Charitable\\_Choice\\_Referral\\_Report\\_EGRAMS\\_SUGS\\_TRMT.xlsx](#)

[Charitable Choice Attachment 2.pdf](#)

[Charitable Choice Attachment 3.pdf](#)

## Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Clinical Officer Review	Stacey Sharp: Associate Vice President of Clinical Operatio	Pending
Unit Review and Approval	Matthew Yascolt: Director of Substance Use Disorder	03/2026

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## Applicability

Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network

## Standards

No standards are associated with this document