BERRIEN MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
-- PROCEDURE --

SUBJECT: Family Planning; Sterilization, Abortion & Contraception	SECTION: 01-04-01 Page 1 of 2
APPLICATION: All Direct Operated & Contractual Programs except Fiscal Intermediary & Guardianship Programs EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/22/98 APPROVED BY: _____ Chief Executive Officer REVISED: 6/99, 10/99, 3/02, 1/05, 2/26	REQUIRED BY: MHC 752 AR 7029

POLICY:
It is the policy of Berrien Mental Health Authority (BMHA) to assist consumers with obtaining information and referral regarding sterilization, abortion and contraception without advising on what course to take in regard to these options. BMHA services will not be contingent in any way on receiving family planning services.

PURPOSE:
To clearly provide guidelines to staff on what their role is in regard to family planning information and decisions given to consumers and also create avenues to communicate this information to our consumers.

STANDARDS:
1. BMHA staff are obligated to provide assistance with obtaining education and referral information to consumers as requested and appropriate.
2. BMHA services are not in any way contingent on receiving family planning services.

DEFINITIONS:
A. Abortion - The termination of pregnancy before the stage of viability, induced or performed purposely, as by a surgeon.
B. Contraception - The prevention of conception by chemical or mechanical means, not to include surgical sterilization.
C. Consumer - A person who receives mental health services from a program operated by BMHA or under contract with the BMHA.
D. Sterilization - The process of rendering an individual incapable of reproduction.
E. Case Coordinator - The consumer's assigned case manager or primary therapist.

PROCEDURE:
A. Consumers of mental health services shall be notified of the availability of family planning information/resources and that their mental health services are not contingent in any way on receiving family planning services. This notice will be provided at the time of intake in the Consumer Bill of Rights and posted in lobby areas. The primary clinician in charge of the recipient's Person Centered Plan shall also inform of the availability of assistance with this information.

B. BMHA staff shall not advise consumers, guardians, or parents of minors based on their own personal beliefs. Staff will assist consumers, guardians or parents of minors in reaching a decision regarding abortion or sterilization through standard counseling practices. Such practices may include values clarification, examination of alternatives, securing information from pertinent community resources, and making referrals for specialized counseling practices.

C. BMHA staff will assist consumers, guardians or parents of minor recipients, in obtaining information and assistance in securing supplies related to contraception, family planning and health services.

D. If needs related to contraception, sterilization or abortion are identified at the time of assessment, these needs should be incorporated in the Person Centered Plan of Service/Supports. The Planning Team can then make recommendations for necessary services, either by agency staff or by referral to appropriate community resources including providers of such services.

E. The supplying of non-prescription contraceptive supplies does not require guardian consent.

F. When discussing sterilization, abortion or contraception, staff shall indicate that receiving mental health services will not be dependent in any way on decisions made relative to these issues.

G. Any assistance provided by staff, including referrals, shall be documented in the electronic medical record.

FORMS: N/A

Reviewer: Office of Recipient Rights
Reviewed: 4/07, 3/08, 3/09, 3/10, 4/11, 5/12, 5/13, 3/14, 7/15, 6/16, 4/17, 3/18, 3/19, 4/2020, 9/2021, 7/2022, 8/2023, 8/2024, 8/2025, 2/2026