BERRIEN MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
-- PROCEDURE --

SUBJECT: CARE OF CONSUMERS WITH A TERMINAL ILLNESS	SECTION: 01-08-02 Page 1 of 2
APPLICATION: Direct Care Staff & Contractors EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/24/99 APPROVED BY: _____ Chief Executive Officer REVISED: 03/02, 3/05, 7/12	REQUIRED BY: MHC AR

POLICY:

It is the policy of Berrien Mental Health Authority (BMHA) to provide compassionate, competent care to those persons seeking assistance with mental health issues related to dying and grief. It is also the policy of BMHA not to assist consumers in any form of suicide or euthanasia.

PURPOSE:

To provide each consumer diagnosed with a terminal illness support and an objective assessment within the framework of BMHA's mission and scope of care. To assure that treatment is focused on the consumer's psychological well-being and the attainment of some sense of comfort and resolve.

STANDARD:

Consumers and family members will always be treated with the greatest dignity. Consumers expressing a desire for coordination between BMHA services and that of clergy and/or hospice programs will be accommodated whenever possible.

DEFINITIONS:

Euthanasia: The act or practice of killing or permitting the death of hopelessly sick or injured individuals in a relatively painless way for reasons of mercy.

Suicide: The act or instance of taking one's own life voluntarily and intentionally.

Terminal Illness: Being in the final stages of a fatal disease.

PROCEDURE:

1) Consumers and/or Guardians of consumers with a terminal illness will be asked if they have an advanced medical directive (e.g. living will or durable power of attorney).
2) If they have an advanced medical directive, a copy will be kept in the medical record.
3) Consumers and/or Guardians of consumers will be informed of BMHA's procedure relative to calling Emergency Medical Services and providing CPR to those who require it (Procedure #01-06-01).
4) Consumers with a terminal illness who express a desire for euthanasia will be informed of BMHA policy not to assist in any form of suicide or euthanasia.

FORMS: N/A

Reviewer: Office of Recipient Rights
Reviewed: 5/2007, 3/08, 3/09, 6/10, 9/11, 7/12, 7/13, 4/14, 7/15, 6/16, 4/17, 3/18, 3/19, 4/2020, 9/2021, 7/2022, 8/2023, 8/2024, 8/2025