

**Fresno County Mental Health Plan  
Compliance Program**

**Policy and Procedure**

Subject: **Code of Conduct**  
Effective Date: **August 1, 2004**  
Revision Date: **July 9, 2010**

**POLICY:**

Fresno County is firmly committed to full compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, rules, and guidelines that apply to its mental health operations and services. At the core of this commitment are Fresno County's employees, contractors (including contractor's employees/subcontractors), volunteers and students, also referred to as "Covered Persons", and the manner in which they conduct themselves. To assure that Fresno County's commitment is shared by all Covered Persons, this Code of Conduct (the "Code") has been established. All Covered Persons will be required to acknowledge and certify their compliance to this Code.

**PURPOSE:**

To provide specific conduct standards prescribed by the Fresno County Mental Health Plan Compliance Program. This Code of Conduct is maintained in addition to the County's Code of Ethics already in effect.

**DEFINITIONS:**

Covered Persons – All employees, contractors (including contractor's employees and subcontractors), volunteers and students working in behavioral/mental health programs.

Excluded Person – Any Covered Person who is or may become suspended, excluded, or ineligible from participation in any Federal healthcare program.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. A copy of the Code of Conduct (see **Attachment A**) will be provided to all Covered Persons at the time of their initial compliance training which must be provided within 30 business days of hire or contract effective date. This Code will also be provided during the annual General Compliance training or within 30 business days after any revision is finalized.
2. Upon initial receipt and review of the Code, Covered Persons shall certify their intention to abide by it by signing the Acknowledgement and Agreement form (see **Attachment B** for sample form). These signed forms will be retained by the Compliance Office. Covered Persons shall certify within 30 business days after distribution of a revised Code.
3. The Compliance Office will track these certifications and regularly report to the Compliance Committee and the Directors of the Departments of Behavioral Health and Public Health regarding progress towards 100% certification by all Covered Persons.
4. The Code will be prominently posted in all Fresno County and contractor mental health facilities and sites.
5. This Code is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all standards by which Covered Persons are to be governed. Rather, it is intended to convey the County's commitment to the high standards set forth by the County.

**Fresno County Mental Health Plan – (Attachment A)  
Compliance Program**

**CODE OF CONDUCT:**

All Fresno County Behavioral/Mental Health Employees, Contractors (including Contractor's Employees/Subcontractors), Volunteers and Students will:

1. Read, acknowledge, and abide by this Code of Conduct.
2. Be responsible for reviewing and understanding Compliance Program policies and procedures including the possible consequences for failure to comply or failure to report such non-compliance.
3. NOT engage in any activity in violation of the County's Compliance Program, nor engage in any other conduct which violates any applicable law, regulation, rule, or guideline. Conduct yourself honestly, fairly, courteously, and with a high degree of integrity in your professional dealings related to their employment/contract with the County and avoid any conduct that could reasonably be expected to reflect adversely upon the integrity of the County and the services it provides.
4. Practice good faith in transactions occurring during the course of business and never use or exploit professional relationships or confidential information for personal purposes.
5. Promptly report any activity or suspected violation of this Code of Conduct, the policies and procedures of the County, the Compliance Program, or any other applicable law, regulation, rule or guideline. All reports may be made anonymously. Fresno County prohibits retaliation against any person making a report. Any person engaging in any form of retaliation will be subject to disciplinary or other appropriate action by the County.
6. Comply with not only the letter of Compliance Program and mental health policies and procedures, but also with the spirit of those policies and procedures as well as other rules or guidelines adopted by the County. Consult with your supervisor or the Compliance Office regarding any Compliance Program standard or other applicable law, regulation, rule or guideline.
7. Comply with all laws governing the confidentiality and privacy of information. Protect and retain records and documents as required by County contract/standards, professional standards, governmental regulations, or organizational policies.
8. Comply with all applicable laws, regulations, rules, guidelines, and County policies and procedures when providing and billing mental health services. Bill only for eligible services actually rendered and fully documented. Use billing codes that accurately describe the services provided. Ensure that no false, fraudulent, inaccurate, or fictitious claims for payment or reimbursement of any kind are prepared or submitted. Ensure that claims are prepared and submitted accurately and timely and are consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, rules and guidelines. Act promptly to investigate and correct problems if errors in claims or billings are discovered.
9. Immediately notify your supervisor, Department Head, Administrator, or the Compliance Office if you become or may become an Ineligible/Excluded Person and therefore excluded from participation in the Federal health care programs.

## FRESNO COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH PLAN COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

### Acknowledgment and Agreement – (Attachment B)

I hereby acknowledge that I have received, read and understand Fresno County's Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics (County employees only), and have received training and information on the Compliance Program and understand the contents thereof. I further acknowledge that I have received, read and understand the Compliance Program policy titled "Prevention, Detection, and Correction of Fraud, Waste and Abuse". I agree to abide by the Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics (County employees only) and all Compliance Program requirements as they apply to my responsibilities as a County employee, contractor/subcontractor, volunteer or student.

I understand and accept my responsibilities under this Acknowledgment and Agreement and understand that any violation of the Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics (County employees only), or the Compliance Program is a violation of County policy and may also be a violation of applicable laws, regulations, rules or guidelines. I further understand that violation of these policies can result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of my employment or contractual agreement with the County.

---

### County Employees Only – Complete this Section

Full Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline (for licensed staff only): ☐ Psychiatrist ☐ Psychologist ☐ LCSW ☐ LMFT ☐ JNP ☐ JRN ☐ LVN ☐ LPT

Department: DBH: ☐ Adult MH ☐ Children MH ☐ Business Office/ISD ☐ Managed Care ☐ MHSA  
☐ Public Health ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost Center# \_\_\_\_\_ Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

---

### Contractors/Contractor Staff, Volunteers, Students only – Complete this Section

Agency Name (If applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline (Indicate below if applicable):

Licensed: ☐ Psychiatrist ☐ Psychologist ☐ LCSW ☐ LMFT

Unlicensed: ☐ Psychologist ☐ ASW ☐ IMF

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title (If different from Discipline): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDI-CAL ORGANIZATIONAL PROVIDER STANDARDS**

1. The organizational provider possesses the necessary license to operate, if applicable, and any required certification.
2. The space owned, leased or operated by the provider and used for services or staff meets local fire codes.
3. The physical plant of any site owned, leased, or operated by the provider and used for services or staff is clean, sanitary and in good repair.
4. The organizational provider establishes and implements maintenance policies for any site owned, leased, or operated by the provider and used for services or staff to ensure the safety and well being of beneficiaries and staff.
5. The organizational provider has a current administrative manual which includes: personnel policies and procedures, general operating procedures, service delivery policies, and procedures for reporting unusual occurrences relating to health and safety issues.
6. The organizational provider maintains client records in a manner that meets applicable state and federal standards.
7. The organization provider has staffing adequate to allow the COUNTY to claim federal financial participation for the services the Provider delivers to beneficiaries, as described in Division 1, Chapter 11, Subchapter 4 of Title 9, CCR, when applicable.
8. The organizational provider has written procedures for referring individuals to a psychiatrist when necessary, or to a physician, if a psychiatrist is not available.
9. The organizational provider has as head of service a licensed mental health professional of other appropriate individual as described in Title 9, CCR, Sections 622 through 630.
10. For organizational providers that provide or store medications, the provider stores and dispenses medications in compliance with all pertinent state and federal standards. In particular:
  - A. All drugs obtained by prescription are labeled in compliance with federal and state laws. Prescription labels are altered only by persons legally authorized to do so.
  - B. Drugs intended for external use only or food stuffs are stored separately from drugs for internal use.
  - C. All drugs are stored at proper temperatures, room temperature drugs at 59-86 degrees F and refrigerated drugs at 36-46 degrees F.
  - D. Drugs are stored in a locked area with access limited to those medical personnel authorized to prescribe, dispense or administer medication.
  - E. Drugs are not retained after the expiration date. IM multi-dose vials are dated and initialed when opened.
  - F. A drug log is maintained to ensure the provider disposes of expired, contaminated, deteriorated and abandoned drugs in a manner consistent with state and federal laws.
  - G. Policies and procedures are in place for dispensing, administering and storing medications.
11. For organizational providers that provide day treatment intensive or day rehabilitation, the provider must have a written description of the day treatment intensive and/or day treatment rehabilitation program that complies with State Department of Mental Health's day treatment requirements. The COUNTY shall review the provider's written program description for compliance with the State Department of Mental Health's day treatment requirements.

12. The COUNTY may accept the host county's site certification and reserves the right to conduct an on-site certification review at least every three years. The COUNTY may also conduct additional certification reviews when:

- The provider makes major staffing changes.
- The provider makes organizational and/or corporate structure changes (example: conversion from a non-profit status).
- The provider adds day treatment or medication support services when medications shall be administered or dispensed from the provider site.
- There are significant changes in the physical plant of the provider site (some physical plant changes could require a new fire clearance).
- There is change of ownership or location.
- There are complaints against the provider.
- There are unusual events, accidents, or injuries requiring medical treatment for clients, staff or members of the community.