

Possibilities of Southern Minnesota

POLICY AND PROCEDURE ON ANTI-FRAUD

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide information regarding the prevention, elimination, monitoring, and reporting of fraud, abuse, and improper activities of government funding in order to obtain and maintain integrity of public funds.

II. POLICY

A holder of a license that is issued by Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), pursuant to MN Statutes, chapter 245A [Human Services Licensing Act], and who has enrolled to receive public governmental funding reimbursement for services is required to comply with the enrollment requirements as a licensing standard (MN Statutes, sections 245A.167 and 256B.04, subdivision 21). The company is a provider of services to persons whose services are funded by government/public funds.

Government funds may be from state or federal governments, to include, but not be limited to: Minnesota's Medical Assistance, Medicaid, Medicare, Brain Injury (BI) Waiver, Community Alternative Care (CAC) Waiver, Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI) Waiver, Developmental Disability (DD) Waiver, Elderly Waiver (EW), and Minnesota's Alternative Care (AC) program. The company has a longstanding practice of fair and truthful dealing with persons served, families, health professionals, and other businesses. Management, staff, contractors, and other agents of the company shall not engage in any acts of fraud, waste, or abuse in any matter concerning the company's business, mission, or funds.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Definition: Types of fraud, abuse, or improper activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Billing for services not actually provided.
2. Documenting clinical care not actually provided.
3. Paying phantom vendors or phantom staff.
4. Paying a vendor for services not actually provided.
5. Paying an invoice known to be false.
6. Accepting or soliciting kickbacks or illegal inducements from vendors of services, or offering or paying kickbacks or illegal inducements to vendors of services.
7. Paying or offering gifts, money, remuneration, or free services to entice a Medicaid recipient to use a particular vendor.
8. Using Medicaid reimbursement to pay a personal expense.
9. Embezzling from the company.
10. Ordering and charging over-utilized medical services that are not necessary for the person served.
11. Corruption.
12. Conversion (converting property or supplies owned by the company to personal use).
13. Misappropriation of funds of the company or person served by the company.
14. Personal loans to executives.
15. Illegal orders.
16. Maltreatment or abuse of persons served by the company.

B. Public Funds Compliance Officer: This company has designated the Chief Accountant as their Public Funds Compliance Officer.

C. Reporting responsibility: The company has an open door policy and encourages staff to share their questions, concerns, suggestions, or complaints regarding the company and its operations with someone who can address them properly. In most cases, this will be a staff person's supervisor. However, if the staff person is not comfortable speaking with their supervisor or is not satisfied with the supervisor's response, the staff person is encouraged to speak with the Public Funds Compliance Officer. If the staff is not comfortable speaking

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with the Public Funds Compliance Officer, the staff is encouraged to speak with the owner/CEO/Board of Directors. At any time, the staff may speak with an applicable external agency to express their concerns if it is believed that it is not possible to speak with the owner/CEO/Board of Directors. Examples of applicable external agencies are local social service agency's financial manager or law enforcement. This policy is intended to encourage and enable persons to raise serious concerns within the company prior to seeking resolution outside it.

- D. Requirement of good faith: Anyone filing a complaint concerning a violation or suspected violation of the law or regulation requirements must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed indicates a violation. Any allegations that prove not to be substantiated and which prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense.
- E. Confidentiality: Violations or suspected violations may be submitted on a confidential basis by the complainant or may be submitted anonymously. Reports of violations or suspected violations will be kept confidential to the extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct an adequate investigation.
- F. No retaliation: No staff person who in good faith reports a violation of a law or regulation requirements will suffer harassment, retaliation, or adverse employment consequences. A staff who retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith is subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment.
- G. Report acknowledgement: The Public Funds Compliance Officer, or designee, will acknowledge receipt of the reported violation or suspected violation by writing a letter (or email) to the complainant within ten (10) business days, noting that the allegations will be investigated.
- H. Responding to allegations of improper conduct: The Public Funds Compliance Officer is responsible for responding to allegations of improper conduct related to the provision or billing of Medical Assistance services. This may include, but is not limited to: investigating, interviewing applicable individuals involved, reviewing documents, asking for additional assistance, seeking input on process of the investigation, or seeking input on Medical Assistance laws and regulations interpretations to address all staff complaints and allegations concerning potential violations. The CEO will take on functions of the Public Funds Compliance Officer role if the complaint involves the Chief Accountant. If the complaint involves both the CEO and Chief Accountant, outside legal counsel or an applicable external agency will carry out the functions of the Public Funds Compliance Officer. The Chief Accountant or its designee will implement corrective action to remediate any resulting problems.
- I. Evaluation and monitoring for internal compliance: On a regular schedule and as needed, the Chief Accountant, or its designee, will run routine financial reports to review financial information for accuracy and compliance. On a regular schedule and as needed, the Chief Accountant, or its designee, will review standard operations and procedures to ensure that they remain compliant.
- J. External auditing for compliance: On a regular schedule, the company will have an external financial audit.
- K. Promptly reporting errors: The Public Funds Compliance Officer shall immediately notify appropriate individuals of all reported concerns or complaints regarding corporate accounting practices, internal controls, or auditing. This may include the Chief Financial Officer, the owner/CEO, or the Chairperson of the Board of Directors. The Chief Accountant will promptly report to DHS any identified violations of Medical Assistance laws or regulations.

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- L. Recovery of overpayment: Within 60 days of discovery by the company of a Medical Assistance reimbursement overpayment, a report of the overpayment to DHS will be completed and arrangements made with DHS for the Department's recovery of the overpayment.

- M. Training: Staff are trained on this policy and as needed, they may need to be re-trained. As determined by the company, staff may need to demonstrate an understanding of the implementation of this policy.

- N. Documentation: The provider must maintain documentation that, upon employment and annually thereafter, staff providing a service have attested to reviewing and understanding the following statement: "It is a federal crime to provide materially false information on service billings for medical assistance or services provided under a federally approved waiver plan as authorized under Minnesota Statutes, sections 256B.0913, 256B.0915, 256B.092, and 256B.49."