



## SHIAWASSEE HEALTH AND WELLNESS POLICY MANUAL

<b>Title:</b>	Treatment by Spiritual Means
<b>Section:</b>	Recipient Rights
<b>Policy Number:</b>	13
<b>Issued By:</b>	Recipient Rights Director
<b>Approved by:</b> Leadership Team	<b>Effective Date:</b> 10/09/95 <b>Last Revision:</b> 01/31/2020
<b>Approved on:</b> 03/05/2020	<b>Last Review:</b> 02/28/2021 <b>Annual Policy Statement Review:</b> 12/28/20

---

### POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of Shiawassee Health and Wellness (SHW) to safeguard and facilitate a recipient's access to and use of treatment by spiritual means when the recipient or guardian requests the use of and access to such treatment.

### PURPOSE:

To ensure the protection of rights of recipients of the SHW.

To ensure compliance with the Michigan Mental Health Code and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Administrative Rules.

### APPLICATION:

This policy applies to all SHW employees, contracted providers and employees, independent contractors, volunteers, and Residents and Interns.

### DEFINITIONS:

Treatment by Spiritual Means: Services, consultation, and education of a spiritual discipline or school of thought upon which a recipient relies to promote mental health and physical well-being and comfort and to aid mental and physical recovery.

### STANDARDS:

1. Awareness and understanding of an individual's spiritual and religious preferences ensures that staff working with a consumer are able to approach circumstances with the consumer with cultural competence. The Biopsychosocial Assessment will identify each consumer's religious, spiritual, and cultural preferences.
2. If a consumer is seeking religion-based therapy, the consumer should receive assistance from SHW personnel to help link the consumer to a religious organization that could provide services that align with the consumer's goal to access this type of care. SHW clinical service personnel are not in a role to provide this type of therapy.
3. When A consumer identifies religious or spiritual practices as a element in their recovery, however they are not seeking religion-based therapy, the primary SHW service provider may incorporate these practices into the person centered plan at the consumer or

guardians request.

4. SHW personnel will refrain from use of spiritual means during the course of treatment should it not be at the request of the consumer to include this personal element in their treatment.
5. Access to treatment by spiritual means will be provided upon the request of a recipient, guardian of a recipient, or the parent of a minor recipient.
6. A recipient residing in a Board-sponsored living arrangement, guardian, or parent of a minor recipient will be afforded the opportunity for contact with organizations providing treatment by spiritual means in the same manner as a recipient is permitted to see a private mental health professional.
7. A provider shall honor and make available, at the recipient's expense, requests for printed, recorded, or visual material that is essential or related to treatment by spiritual means and to a symbolic object of like significance.
8. The right to treatment by spiritual means includes the right of a recipient, a recipient's guardian or a parent of a minor to refuse medication or other treatment on spiritual grounds that predate the current allegations of mental illness or disability but does not extend to circumstances where either:
  - a. A guardian or provider has been empowered by a court to consent to or to provide treatment and has done so.
  - b. A recipient is presently a danger to self or others and treatment is essential to prevent physical injury.
9. The right to treatment by spiritual means does not include the following:
  - a. To use mechanical devices or clinical or organic compounds which are physically harmful [AR 7135 (5) (a)].
  - b. To engage in an activity prohibited by law [AR 7135 (5) (b)].
  - c. To engage in an activity which physically harms the recipient or others [AR 7135 (5) (c)].
  - d. To engage in a physical activity which is inconsistent with court-ordered custody or voluntary placement by a person other than the recipient [AR 7135 (5) (d)].
10. Agencies providing services under contract to recipients of the SHW will insure the right of Board-sponsored recipients to treatment by spiritual means by adhering to SHW's Treatment by Spiritual Means policy including the following:
  - a. Assurance that a recipient assents when a request is by the guardian.
  - b. Recourse to court proceedings when there is refusal of medication or other treatment for a recipient who is a minor.

- c. Notice to the requesting person of a denial of a request and the reasons for the denial.
- d. Documentation of each event must be recorded in the recipient's clinical record.

11. A facility under contract with SHW to provide residential or inpatient services to Board-sponsored recipients will provide for an administrative review or appeal of a denial of a request for treatment by spiritual means if the person requesting said care requests an appeal.

**Change Log:**

Date of Change	Description of Change	Responsible Party
5/9/16		Rebecca Browne
8/15/19	Moved some content from definition to standards, reorganized standards	Andrea Andrykovich
01/31/2020	Standards 1-4 added for clarification based on recommendation from Ethics Committee.	Crystal Eddy, Clinical Director