



QUARTERLY PROVIDER BULLETIN

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NORTH COUNTRY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

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 877-470-7130

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North Country CMH receives its principal funding from the Michigan Department of Human and Health Services (MDHHS)



The Client's Right to Vote: Provider Recommendations

By Lani Laporte, Contract Manager (llaporte@norcocmh.org)

Clients are legally allowed, and encouraged to vote in any election. Clients should be accommodated so that they can cast their vote when desired. While this may seem more of a recipient rights issue, it is important to note that this year's election includes many critical policy and funding changes that are important to direct care worker wages, individual rights, legislative term limits, and reproductive rights. For clients who wish to vote, providers are encouraged to make accommodations for the following:

- Work with guardians to assure or verify that client is registered to vote;
- Verify voting locations;
- Verify client's ID availability;
- Provide clients with key proposal educational information in an unbiased manner;
- Provide clients with information/training on the technical aspects of 'HOW TO VOTE' based on the processes utilized in your precinct;
- Organize transportation for clients to voting facilities on voting day and arrange for staffing needs to accommodate the client's opportunity to vote;
- Offer absentee ballot options to clients for those unable to get to voting locations;
- Make sure that provider staffing schedules allow employees the necessary time off to cast their own vote!

“Title II of the ADA requires states to ensure that voters with disabilities are offered an opportunity to vote that is equal to the opportunity offered to voters without disabilities, whether in person or absentee. “ - see [Voting Accessibility for People with Disabilities Fact Sheet | NCD.gov](#)

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The Client's Right to Vote: MDHHS Regulation

The MDHHS Administrative Rules, under R 330.7009 Civil Rights, indicates the following regulation and provider responsibilities with regard to client voting rights:

(5) The right of a recipient to participate in the electoral process, including primaries and special and recall elections shall not be abridged. An eligible recipient, including a recipient determined to be legally incompetent, shall have the right to exercise his or her franchise...Facilities shall have procedures which assure all the following:

(a) All recipients 18 years of age or over are canvassed to ascertain their interest in registering to vote, obtaining absentee ballots, and casting ballots. The canvass shall be conducted to allow sufficient time for voter registration and acquisition of absentee ballot, or provided recipients with an opportunity to leave the premises to exercise voting privileges, or to register to vote, or a facility director may require supervisory personnel to accompany recipients and may require recipients to bear reasonable transportation costs.

(b) Arrangements with state and local election officials are made to provide voter registration and casting of ballots for interested recipients at the facility or may elect to encourage the use of absentee ballots.

(c) Facilities shall assist election officials in determining a recipient's place of residence for voting purposes.

(d) Facilities shall not prohibit a recipient from receiving campaign literature, shall permit campaigning by candidates, and may reasonably regulate the time, duration, and location of these activities. A facility director shall permit a recipient to place political advertisements in his or her personal quarters. *Continued on Page 3.*



FY2023 QUARTERLY PROVIDER MEETING SCHEDULE

THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE IS ESTABLISHED FOR QUARTERLY PROVIDER MEETINGS FOR FY2023. Please mark your calendars and be sure that your new or existing staff are on the invitation/link listing by emailing providerrelations@norco cmh.org.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2022 – VIRTUAL ONLY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023 – VIRTUAL ONLY

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023 – IN PERSON AT THE GAYLORD UNIVERSITY CENTER, WITH VIRTUAL OPTION

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023 – IN PERSON AT THE GAYLORD UNIVERSITY CENTER, WITH VIRTUAL OPTION

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The Client's Right to Vote: Election 2022 Info & Deadlines

Upcoming NOVEMBER 2022 Election Information: including Absentee Ballots, Online Registration, State Candidates and Proposals, How to use Voting Equipment and more can be found at [Voter information \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov)

Registration deadlines

- In-person at local election office on Election Day : Nov 8
- Online : Oct 24
- By mail (postmarked by) : Oct 24

Absentee ballot deadlines

- Request ballot (received by) : Nov 4
- Return ballot by mail (received by) : Nov 8
- Return ballot in person : Nov 8

Voting deadlines

- Early voting (in-person absentee voting) : varies by location
- In-person : Nov 8

How can I check my voter registration status?

You can look up your voter registration record and verify that your information is correct using [Michigan's voter registration lookup tool](#).

Vote on Election Day:

Voters in Michigan can look up where to vote on [Michigan's site](#).

Vote early:

Michigan does offer in-person absentee voting. [Learn more about in-person absentee voting in Michigan](#).

What to bring:

Voters are asked to show current photo ID to vote in Michigan. Acceptable forms include either a Michigan driver's license or state ID card, current (non-expired) driver's license or personal ID card issued by another state; federal or state government-issued photo ID, US passport, military ID card with a photo, student ID with a photo from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education, tribal ID card with a photo.

IF A CLIENT DOES NOT HAVE ANY ID, PLEASE REQUEST THE GUARDIAN OBTAIN A CLIENT ID IN AN ACCEPTABLE FORMAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

PROVIDER QUARTERLY UPDATE - OFFICE OF RECIPIENT RIGHTS, HEALTH & SAFETY

What You Need to Know About Informed Consent

By Brandy Marvin, RR Specialist (bmarvin@norcocmh.org)

Consent is a written agreement executed by a recipient, a minor recipient's parent, a legal representative with authority to execute consent, or a full or limited guardian that has been authorized to give consent. There are four elements of Informed Consent: Legal Competency, Knowledge, Comprehension, and Voluntariness.

Many recipients have some form of established guardianship in place. It is important to understand that not all guardianships are equal when it comes to consent for treatment, placement, and information sharing. Generally, a "Plenary" or "Full" guardian has the authority to provide consent on behalf of their wards, whereas a "Partial" or "Limited" guardian may have a more limited scope of authority in providing consent. Some partial guardians are limited to contract and financial decisions while others may include medical decisions. Prior to obtaining consent from a guarded recipient, it is important to always make certain of who holds the authority to consent by referencing the individual's court ordered guardianship document. It is equally important to remember that if a recipient does not have a legal guardianship in place, then the recipient maintains full authority to make their own decisions.

Legal Competency: An individual shall be presumed to be legally competent unless otherwise rebutted by a court appointment of a guardian. An individual shall be presumed legally competent regarding matters that are not within the scope and authority of the guardianship.

Knowledge: A recipient (or their legal representative-if applicable) must have basic information about medical treatments being offered. They must also be knowledgeable of the purpose, risks, benefits, and other available options and be provided an opportunity to ask questions.

Comprehension: The consenting person must have the ability to understand the implications of providing consent based upon the information given to them.

Voluntariness: The individual consenting must always be given the freedom of independent choice and should never be forced, deceived, or coerced in any way.

For more information please refer to the NCCMH Administrative Manual: Chapter 5 Member Rights; Informed Consent Procedure. https://norcocmh.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet/AdministrationManual/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2Fintranet%2FAdministrationManual%2Fo5_Recipient_Rights%2FInformed_Consent_Procedure%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2Fintranet%2FAdministrationManual%2Fo5_Recipient_Rights

True or False

1. An individual who has not been declared legally incompetent by a court of law maintains full authority to make their own decisions, including whether or not to give consent. **TRUE**
2. A partial guardian has the authority to provide consent for all matters, regardless of what the guardianship papers say. **FALSE**
3. Sometimes it is reasonable to coerce a recipient who is their own guardian into giving consent by promising them gifts. **FALSE**

Fire Prevention Month

By Linda Kleiber, Safety Specialist (lkleiber@norcocmh.org)

October is Fire Prevention Month!

The goal of Fire Prevention Month (and week October 9th - 15th) is to raise fire safety awareness and help ensure you are protected. In 1922, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) named the second week of October Fire Prevention Week in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. Today, Fire Prevention Week and Month are for raising fire safety awareness and education. The Nation Fire Protection Agency's 2022 campaign for Fire Safety Month is "Fire Won't Wait, Plan Your Escape."

Fire Prevention Week is the perfect time to educate and talk with your sites about fire safety – including alarm systems, evacuation and when and what to use the fire extinguisher for.

- Review your evacuation plan.
- Know at least 2 ways out of every room.
- Practice using different routes.
- Close doors behind you. A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, fire and heat.
- Know the location of fire extinguishers for rescue or evacuation.

In Honor of Our Caregivers



Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week

SEPTEMBER 11 – 17, 2022

Residential or Service Sites subject to site reviews are requested to please create a signature sheet (example below) to record that staff have read and will comply with the material presented in the Quarterly Recipient Rights and Safety pages of this bulletin. This bulletin replaces annual updates of Environmental Emergencies and Recipient Rights only. Sign off sheets will be monitored during annual site visits. We suggest printing & posting the Quarterly Recipient Rights and Safety pages of this bulletin on site, as well as reviewing them during staff meetings.

September 2022

NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Mary Smith	<i>Mary Smith</i>	9/25/22
Ben Hur	<i>Ben Hur</i>	9/25/22

Environmental Emergencies ~ Recipient Rights