Self Determination and Choice Voucher, 08-202-02

I. APPLICATION

All GHS Staff; Contractual Staff; Students; Volunteers; Network Providers

II. POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of Genesee Health System (GHS) to assure that Self-Determination will be available for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities and adults with mental illness. The Choice Voucher will be available for families of children who are receiving services from all GHS network providers.

GHS recognizes that all individuals and families have a right to live self-determined lives, and GHS will assist each individual and family to attain a self-determined life. Person/family centered planning, fiscal responsibility, and the wise use of public funds shall guide GHS and the individual or family in development and management of an individual budget. Accountability of the use of public funds must be a shared responsibility of GHS and the individual or family. Mental health funds included in an individual budget are the property and responsibility of GHS. An agreement shall be made in writing between GHS and the individual or responsible parent delineating the responsibility and the authority of both parties and shall include a copy of the Individual Plan of Service (IPOS) and individual budget. Issues of health, safety, and well-being are central to assuring successful accomplishment of an individuals’ plan of services and supports. Participation in self-determination or choice voucher shall be voluntary.

Arrangements that support self-determination are administrative mechanisms, allowing a person to choose, control and direct providers of mental health service and support. The goals of arrangements that support self-determination, on an individual basis, are to dissolve the isolation of people with
disabilities, reduce segregation, promote participation in community life, and realize full citizenship rights.

The Choice Voucher System for Children provides a concrete set of methods that gives families of children receiving services and supports from the Children's Home and Community Based Waiver Program (CWP) and the Habilitation Supports Waiver (HSW) meaningful authority to choose and directly hire providers of authorized services and supports.

The goal of the use of the Choice Voucher System for Children is to facilitate a method of honoring the preferences and choices of the child, and his or her family, and connecting the child to a meaningful life in the community. The arrangements made through this system do not support self-determination because children are legally dependent upon a parent or guardian to make decisions for them until they reach the age of 18. These decisions include choices about mental health services and supports.

III. STANDARDS

A. Self-determination and choice voucher shall be available to those individuals and families who request the opportunity to participate, and for whom an agreement on a plan of services and supports, along with an acceptable individual budget, is reached.

B. GHS shall design and implement alternative approaches that will be available for an individual or family to use in applying their budget to obtain self-selected and self-directed provider arrangements.

C. GHS will assist individuals and families participating in self-determination or choice voucher to select, employ, and direct their support personnel; select and retain chosen qualified provider entities; and make reasonably available access to alternative methods for directing and managing support personnel.

D. All individuals have a right to meaningful relationships and an optimal quality of life. Families, friends, and personnel will assist the individual and families to create new meaningful relationships, link them with needed supports in their communities, develop healthy and safe networks, and remove barriers.

E. GHS the individual or family may terminate the Self-Determination Agreement or Choice Voucher Agreement and, therefore, the arrangement. GHS will inform the individual or family – in writing prior to the termination – of the reason(s) that lead to termination. GHS will provide the opportunity for problem resolution through the person/family centered planning process. Termination of a Self-Determination or Choice Voucher Agreement alone shall not change the IPOS or the obligation to maintain authorized specialty mental health services and supports as identified in the IPOS. GHS must provide an explanation of termination or change of services and the applicable appeal, grievance, and dispute resolution processes, and (where required) appropriate notice.

IV. REFERENCES

MDCH, BH&DDA Policy & Practice Guidelines, 10-1-2012
MDCH, Self-Determination Implementation Technical Advisory, Version3.0 March 1, 2013
MDHHS, BH&DDA CHOICE VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR CHILDREN TECHNICAL ADVISORY December 2015
V.

Program Supervisors are responsible for training of staff.

VI. DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION

The Senior Director of Clinical Services is responsible for annual review this policy.

Approval Signatures

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<tr>
<td>Sr. Director of Clinical Services Approval</td>
<td>Katie Baxter</td>
<td>06/2022</td>
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<td>Amy Johnson</td>
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