

Administration Behavioral Health Clinic Services Emergency Medical Services Environmental Health/Animal Services

Public Health
Public Administrator/Public Guardian

Policy Number	450
Policy Title	Persons with Disabilities
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	Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

	Medicaid Managed Care Final Rule Network Adequacy Standards (July 19, 2017), Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Monterey County Behavioral Health Polices Monterey County Code Chapter 2.80 Monterey County Health Department Policies
Form	none
Effective	December 6, 2017

### **Policy**

Monterey County Behavioral Health (MCBH) and its contractors must comply with requirements and ensure access to services by individuals with disabilities. These statutory and regulatory requirements assist in ensuring persons with disabilities (PWD) are provided access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

Services must be made available to all individuals with mobility, communication, or cognitive impairments as required by state and federal laws and regulations. Prevention and treatment providers must take action to identify all physical and programmatic barriers to services and develop plans for removing or mitigating the identified barriers. Failure by service providers to initiate actions to correct identified deficiencies may result in civil penalties, and possible suspension, or revocation, of licensure, certification or contract cancellation, as applicable.

American with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in places of public accommodation with respect to the accessibility of their physical facilities and with respect to their policies and practices (Moeller v. Taco Bell Corporation, supra, 220 F.R.D. at p. 606.) In the ADA's specific prohibitions section, discrimination is defined to include "a failure to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations to individuals with disabilities, unless the entity can demonstrate that making such modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations." (42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii).)

#### Procedure:

MCBH and its Contractors shall comply with all applicable Federal, State and local laws and regulations which prohibit discrimination including, but not limited to, the regulation set forth in this policy.

# Non-discrimination

MCBH and its Contractors shall not unlawfully discriminate against any person because of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, ancestry, mental or physical handicap, medical condition, marital status, age, or sexual orientation, either in employment practices or in the furnishing of services to recipients. MCBH and its Contractors shall insure that the evaluation and treatment of its employees and applicants for employment and all persons receiving and requesting services are free of such discrimination. The provision of services primarily or exclusively to such target population as may be designated in in Agreements shall not be deemed to be unlawful discrimination. In addition, MCBH and its Contractor's facility access for the disabled shall comply with § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794).

#### Discrimination defined

The term "discrimination," as used in this Agreement, is the same term that is used in Monterey County Code, Chapter 2.80 ("Procedures for Investigation and Resolution of Discrimination Complaints"); it means the illegal denial of equal employment opportunity, harassment (including sexual harassment and violent harassment), disparate treatment, favoritism, subjection to unfair or unequal working conditions, and/or discriminatory practice by any Monterey County official, employee or agent, due to an individual's race, color, ethnic group, sex, national origin, ancestry, religious creed, sexual orientation, age, veteran's status, cancer-related medical condition, physical handicap (including AIDS) or disability. The term also includes any act of retaliation.

### **Application of Monterey County Code Chapter 2.80**

The provisions of Monterey County Code Chapter 2.80 apply to activities conducted pursuant to Agreements. MCBH and its Contractor and its officers and employees, in their actions under Agreement, are agents of the County within the meaning of Chapter 2.80 and are responsible for ensuring that their workplace and the services that they provide are free from discrimination, as required by Chapter 2.80. Complaints of discrimination made by recipients of services against MCBH staff may be pursued by using the procedures established by or pursuant to Chapter 2.80. Contractors shall establish and follow its own written procedures for prompt and fair investigation and resolution of discrimination complaints made against its own employees and agents or recipients of services pursuant to the MCBH Agreement. MCBH Contractors shall provide a copy of such procedures to MCBH contract monitor and on demand by MCBH.

## **Compliance with Applicable Law**

Statutory and regulatory requirements to ensure PWD are provided access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services shall remain as requirements in all MCBH contracts. All sites who apply to become Medi-Cal certified will be required to meet the statutory and regulatory requirements prior to certification.

Monterey County Health Department staff are required, every two (2) years, to complete training that support the implementation of the statutory and regulatory requirements for working with people with disabilities.