



CLIENT HANDBOOK

AUGUST 2020
Updated 11/2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome to Southcoast Psychiatric Services
Southcoast Psychiatric Services Mission
PHILOSOPHY OF THE PROGRAM
You Have a Choice
Access to Services
About Our Staff
Services Available
Your Treatment Plan
Feedback
Americans with Disability Act
Health And Safety
Changing Your Clinician
Client Rights and Responsibilities Right To
File A Grievance
You Have The Right To Be Free of Abuse
Privacy Notice
Grievance Procedure and Form
Sample Consent for Treatment
Sample Release of Information
What if I Have an Emergency or a Crisis?
Phone Numbers and Addresses
YOUR NOTES

Welcome to Southcoast Psychiatric Services Inc.

We're pleased that you have chosen our agency.

This handbook was created with the participation of consumers, family and support network members, advocates and agency staff. It is provided as a guide to acquaint you with our mission and values, services and policies as well as your rights and responsibilities as our client.

Southcoast Psychiatric Services Inc. MISSION

To provide clinical services unique to each individual in any environment they find most challenging, and focus on individual strengths so every client has the chance to achieve their highest potential.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE PROGRAM

- Your therapist will provide individualized strength based therapeutic interventions.
- The collaboration and the merging of medical, psychological, social and educational needs of each individual is an essential component.
- Input from the individuals we serve is a key in treating barriers and improving client's life mastery.
- Your therapist will be trained and provided tools specific to the behavioral and emotional challenges of the at-risk population.

You Have a Choice

We recognize that you have a choice in selecting a mental health agency, and we thank you for choosing Southcoast Psychiatric Services. We believe that your choice of Southcoast Psychiatric Services was a good one, and that we will exceed your expectations.

Access to Services

Southcoast Psychiatric Services receive referrals from Community Based Care Organizations, Schools, Child Protection Investigators, Pastors and Daycare Facilities. Business hours are Monday through Friday 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m.. Our staff is available for evening and weekend appointments. Services are provided in the home and school settings according to individual needs.

About Our Staff

At Southcoast Psychiatric Services we employ clinical staff with Master's and Doctoral Degrees in Counseling or similar field. We require at least 2 years of experience working with the population and provide ongoing training. A licensed therapist supervises all clinicians.

Services Available

At Southcoast Psychiatric Services we provide individual, group and family counseling. Southcoast Psychiatric Services also offers psychiatric services, including medication management and psychiatric evaluations, performed by a qualified and experienced Physician. Testing such as IQ, Autism, Psychosexual/Trauma, and others are also available in a limited area.

Your Treatment Plan

Your involvement in developing a mutually agreed-upon treatment plan is important to your care. You, and possibly those supporting your treatment (with your permission), will develop a treatment plan that outlines your goals and how to achieve them. You, your clinician and other members of the treatment team will review and update your plan. You may request a copy of your plan. You and your clinician will meet to review your progress toward achieving your goals and objectives. You and your clinician may change and update your plan as appropriate during treatment.



Feedback

At Southcoast Psychiatric Services, we consider you a partner in your treatment. To know if we are providing the best services, we ask for your evaluation and input. Your clinician will check with you periodically about this. However, we encourage your feedback at any time if you feel your care here could be improved. We will periodically ask you to complete a client satisfaction survey. These surveys only take a few minutes to complete and give us valuable information regarding future service improvements

Americans with Disability Act

If you have a special need or disability, please let us know so that we can provide a reasonable accommodation and ensure that you are comfortable while receiving quality client care. No otherwise qualified, disabled individual shall be solely, by reason of a disability, excluded from participation in or be denied benefits or subject to discrimination while a client of Southcoast Psychiatric Services.

Health And Safety

Southcoast Psychiatric Services is a smoke free environment. Smoking and use of tobacco products are not permitted.

To protect the safety and health of our clients, staff, and visitors we prohibit the possession of any weapons or illegal substances on all properties of Southcoast Psychiatric Services.

Changing Your Clinician

Clinically appropriate staff will be selected at intake. If you feel the service relationship is not helpful, you have a right to request a review and possible change of clinicians.

The following are important documents and should be read carefully. Please ask your therapist or call Southcoast Psychiatric Services office if you have questions about these documents.

Client Rights and Responsibilities

I HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- The RIGHT to be treated with dignity and respect.
- The RIGHT to be free from physical, sexual and verbal abuse and neglect.
- The RIGHT to an education.
- The RIGHT to be involved in the service planning process and express opinions on the services received.
- The RIGHT to receive services in an environment that is comfortable and clean.
- The RIGHT to file complaints and grievances.
- The RIGHT to privacy and confidentiality.
- The RIGHT to access my record as allowable by HIPAA.
- The RIGHT not to be discriminated against in the provision of services based on age, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.

I HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO:

- Treat the staff and other participants in my treatment with dignity and respect.
- Participate in treatment as outlined in my individual plan.
- Obey the policies and procedures of attendance as described to me.

Right To File A Grievance

Southcoast Psychiatric Services provides clients, their relatives, legal guardians and other interested parties with the right to initiate a written complaint when there is concern with the services being provided, staff actions, or violations of rights. If you are unhappy with the services you are receiving you may discuss this with particular staff person, or their immediate supervisor. You may also share your concerns by filling a written complaint.

Depending on the nature of the complaint, there are various ways of responding. These could include investigations, interviews and involvement from the President. You will be notified the outcome of your grievance within 10 days of filing. If/when the complaint gets elevated you will be notified of the outcome within 10 days. If you're still not happy with the resolution of the complaint, you may notify your Case Manager for further investigation.

See Grievance Form and full Procedure at the end of the handbook.

You Have The Right To Be Free of Abuse

Southcoast Psychiatric Services staff follows state and federal regulations regarding abuse and neglect reporting. We will not knowingly abuse or neglect any client or fail to report suspected abuse or neglect. Any client who feels they have been a victim of abuse, neglect or exploitation at our facility should call the **Abuse Hotline at 1-800-962-2873**

**HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT
HIPAA
PRIVACY NOTICE**

Effective April 2003

This notice describes how information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information.

- Your confidential health care information may be released to other healthcare professionals within Southcoast Psychiatric Services. for the purpose of providing you with quality healthcare. This could include quality assurance and billing purposes.
- Your confidential healthcare information may be released to your insurance provider for the purpose of Southcoast Psychiatric Services receiving payment for providing you with needed healthcare services.
- Your confidential healthcare information may be released to public or law enforcement officials in the event of an investigation in which you are a victim of abuse, a crime or domestic violence.
- Your confidential healthcare information may be released to other healthcare providers in the event you need emergency care.
- Your confidential healthcare information may be release to a public health organization or federal organization in the event of a communicable disease.
- Your confidential healthcare information may not be released for any other purpose that that which is identified in this notice.
- Your confidential healthcare information may be released only after receiving written authorization from you. You may revoke your permission to release confidential healthcare information at any time.
- You may be contacted by Southcoast Psychiatric Services to remind you of any appointments, healthcare treatment options or other health services that may be of interest to you.

- You may be contacted by Southcoast Psychiatric Services for the purpose of raising funds or marketing the operations.
- You have the right to restrict the use of your confidential healthcare information. However, we may choose to refuse your restriction if it is in conflict with providing you with quality healthcare or in the event of an emergency situation.
- You have the right to receive confidential communication about your health status.
- You have the right to review and photocopy any/all portions of your healthcare information.
- You have the right to make changes to your healthcare information.
- You have the right to know who has accessed your confidential healthcare information.
- You have the right to possess a copy of this Privacy Notice upon request.
- Southcoast Psychiatric Services is required by law to protect of the privacy of its clients. It will keep confidential any and all client healthcare information and will provide clients with a list of duties or practices that protect confidential healthcare information.
- Southcoast Psychiatric Services will abide by the terms of this notice. We reserve the right to make changes to this notice and continue to maintain the confidentiality of all healthcare information. Clients will receive a mailed copy of any changes to this notice within 60 days of making the change.
- You have the right to complain to Southcoast Psychiatric Services if you believe your rights to privacy have been violated. If you feel your rights have been violated, please direct complaints to Michelle Contract/Compliance and Operations Officer.
- All complaints will be investigated. No personal issue will be raised for filing a complaint.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

You have the right to let your concerns {grievances) about how you are being treated be known.

You have a right to be told the method you can use to let your concerns {grievances) be known. This written notice is a description of how to report grievances and complaints about services you receive from Southcoast Psychiatric Services This written notice should be given to you before you begin receiving services with Southcoast Psychiatric Services.

PROCEDURE:

--You and/or your legal guardian are not limited in any way in the scope, content or frequency of your grievances.

--You and/or your guardian may begin the grievance process by telling your Therapist what your complaint is either in person or in writing. Your Therapist will give you a form to fill out to describe your concern. Be sure to date it.

Therapist: Phone Number _____

--Your Therapist will review and address the complaint with the guidance of his or her supervisor. If the complaint is about your Therapist, the supervisor will review the situation.

--Your Therapist (or the supervisor) will provide you with a written response within ten working days of when you first let the complaint be known.

--If you disagree with the response, you may take your complaint in writing to the Operations Manager. The Operations Manager will review the complaint and respond to you in writing within ten working days of receipt of your complaint.

--If you disagree with what the Operation's Manager decides, you may take your complaint in writing to the President. The President will make the final decision and respond to you and your legal guardian in writing within ten working days.

--Concerns the program staff may have about the possible inappropriate use of this grievance process will be reviewed by your FL Team (which will include a neutral person, such as a referring agency representative or a human rights representative) and will be addressed in your FL plan.

*Client's Signature Date STAFF Signature Date

*I have received a copy

Legal Guardian Date

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF CLIENT
HANDBOOK**

Southcoast Psychiatric Services and _____ (client).

I acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to review the Southcoast Psychiatric Services Handbook and all of its contents, which includes a "Notice of Privacy Practices," Grievance Procedure and Grievance form and that any of my questions regarding these practices have been answered. I have received a copy of the handbook.

Client Name (please print)

Date

Client Signature