



St. Clair County Community Mental Health Code of Ethics

At St. Clair County Community Mental Health (SCCCMH), we are dedicated to providing ethical, compassionate, and effective behavioral health care. This Code of Ethics outlines the principles and values that govern our conduct, foster trust, and ensure accountability.

We recognize our impact on the lives of the individuals we serve, their families, and our community. Therefore, we adhere to principles of integrity, respect, confidentiality, and social justice in all aspects of our work. Through these ethical standards, we cultivate a safe and supportive environment for all individuals we serve, empowering them in their recovery journeys and advocating for equitable access to behavioral health resources.

This Code reflects our commitment to excellence and continuous improvement. We expect our staff and stakeholders to engage with these principles actively, fostering a culture of openness, respect, and collaboration.

1. Respect for Individuals

- **Dignity:** All individuals seeking services will be treated with respect, empathy, and dignity, regardless of their religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socioeconomic status, or disability.
- **Confidentiality:** Confidential information about individuals served will be kept private and shared only as required by law.

2. Professional Integrity

- **Honesty and Transparency:** All St. Clair County Community Mental Health (SCCCMH) staff will engage in honest and transparent communication, offering individuals clear information about their rights, treatment options, and any potential conflicts of interest.
- **Competence:** SCCCMMH staff are committed to maintaining and enhancing their professional skills and knowledge through ongoing education and training, ensuring the best possible care each individual served.

3. Person-Centered Family Focused Care

- **Autonomy:** Individuals have the right to make informed decisions about their care. SCCCMMH staff will support and empower individuals to make choices that align with their values and goals.
- **Holistic Approach:** Care will be provided with an understanding of each individual's unique physical, emotional, and social needs, incorporating the views and preferences of each individual in the development of their treatment plans.

4. Equity and Access

- **Non-Discrimination:** All individuals, regardless of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socioeconomic status, or disability will have equal access to services.
- **Cultural Competence:** Services will be delivered in a culturally sensitive manner, respecting and honoring the diverse backgrounds of the community served.

5. Accountability and Responsibility

- **Advocacy:** All SCCCMH staff are committed to advocating for the rights and well-being of individuals, especially those who are vulnerable or marginalized.
- **Responsibility to the Community:** SCCCMH staff will actively contribute to the well-being of the broader community, advocating for mental health resources, reducing stigma, and promoting mental wellness.

6. Collaboration and Teamwork

- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** SCCCMH staff will collaborate effectively with other professionals, such as physicians, schools, and community organizations, to provide comprehensive and coordinated care.
- **Supervision and Support:** SCCCMH staff will seek guidance and support when necessary and engage in supervision to ensure the quality of services provided.

7. Professional Boundaries

- **Boundaries with Individuals Served:** SCCCMH staff will maintain appropriate boundaries in all interactions with individuals served, ensuring a therapeutic relationship that is respectful, professional, and free from exploitation or harm.
- **Conflict of Interest:** SCCCMH staff will avoid situations where personal, financial, or professional conflicts of interest may compromise their objectivity, or the integrity of care provided to individuals served.

8. Ethical Decision Making

- **Ethical Conduct:** SCCCMH staff will make decisions that reflect ethical standards, considering both the immediate needs and long-term impact of their actions on individuals served and the community.
- **Accountability:** Any violation of this Code of Ethics will be addressed through appropriate internal review and disciplinary processes, ensuring a culture of responsibility and continuous improvement.

9. Self-care and Professional Wellness

- **Self-Care:** SCCCMH staff will nurture their own well-being and engage in self-care practices to sustain their effectiveness and emotional health in the demanding field of behavioral health.
- **Peer Support:** SCCCMH staff are encouraged to support their peers in maintaining ethical practices and fostering a supportive and collaborative work environment.