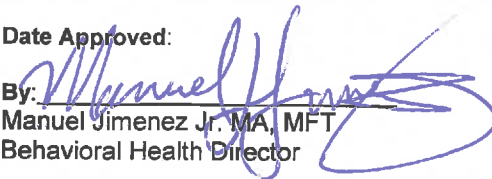
	<p>Date Approved:</p> <p>By:   Manuel Jimenez Jr. MA, MFT  Behavioral Health Director</p>
<p><b>POLICY TITLE</b></p> <p><b>Charitable Choice</b></p>	<p><b>Policy No: 150-1-2</b></p> <p><b>Date Effective: 8/6/13</b>  <b>Date Revised: 6/20/14; 4/17/15;</b></p>

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) provides processes and procedures to ensure nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for religious providers when contracts for Substance Use Disorder prevention and treatment services are awarded or renewed.

**AUTHORITY**

Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 54; SAPT Block Grant

**SCOPE**

All religious service providers, entities, individuals, and programs providing services under a substance use, prevention and treatment contract or subcontract with BHCS.

**POLICY**

It is the policy of BHCS that discrimination against individuals on the basis of religion is prohibited. Also, BHCS and its contractors do not discriminate against religious organizations, and regards them as equally eligible for receipt of contracts through BHCS Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services.

**PROCEDURE**

BHCS ensures that all services and/or contracts shall include language prohibiting discrimination against individuals on the basis of religion. In addition, religious organization shall be equally eligible for receipt of substance abuse, prevention and treatment contracts.

- A. In the performance of the contract terms for prevention services or for substance use disorder treatment, contracted religious organizations shall:
  - i. Establish a referral process to a reasonably accessible program for clients who may object to the religious nature of the contractor's program, and within a reasonable amount of time from the date of the request the contractor shall provide the referral(s) to the client. The contractor shall notify and request assistance from BHCS Network Office if needed;

**Charitable Choice Policy**

- ii. Notify clients during intake and in writing of their rights, that include prohibiting discrimination, and referring the clients who object to the religious nature of the program in which they are participating to another program;
- iii. Report annually to BHCS any referrals that were made, due to the religious nature of the contractor's program, to the authorized designee of BHCS, and;
- iv. Establish their own Charitable Choice Policy and Procedure.

**B. BHCS contractor compliance with this policy shall be achieved through:**

- i. Approval and execution of the contract by the Board of Supervisors;
- ii. Annual program site monitoring visits by BHCS Network Office;
- iii. Fiscal review to ensure that contractors do not use funds for religious program content, and;
- iv. Provision and funding of alternative services.

**DISTRIBUTION**

This policy will be distributed to:

- BHCS Staff
- BHCS County and Contract Providers

**CONTACT**

BHCS Office	Current as of	Email
Quality Management Division	September 2016	QAOffice@BHCS.org

**HISTORY**

**Original Author(s):** Sharon Loveseth, LAADC; QA

**Original Date of Approval:** Manuel Jimenez Jr. MA, MFT; Behavioral Health Director

Revise Author	Reason for Revise	Approval by Name
Sharon Loveseth	Annual SAPT Review 2016	Manuel J. Jiménez, Jr., MA, MFT; BHCS Director

**DEFINITIONS**

Term	Definition
SAPT BG	Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant
Service Providers	BHCS employees, contractors, interns and volunteers