

# GREATER COLUMBIA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

## Policies and Procedures

Category: Clinical  
Approved On: 10/31/2005  
Approved By: The Board of Directors  
Revised: 00/00/00  
Reviewed: 10/04/06  
Effective Date: 15 days from the last revision date

No: CL319.00

**Title: Best Practices Policy**

### I. Scope:

This policy applies to GCBH, GCBH Member Governments and subcontractors.

### II. Purpose:

- A. To ensure that each Member Government/Provider Agency adopts and adheres to those DSHS selected CORE Evidence-based Practices and DSHS Priority Evidence-based/Promising Practices<sup>1</sup>, as also approved by the GCBH Board of Directors.
- B. To ensure that GCBH and Member Governments/Provider Agencies endeavor to enhance the quality of care to consumers through the adoption of Best Practices.

### III. Definition:

A Best Practice is an approach to treatment or support that is based on valid and reliable clinical evidence and/or a consensus of health care professionals in mental health. It must be evidence-based, research-based, consensus-based and/or a promising or emerging practice.

### IV. Process/Procedures:

- A. GCBH will ensure, through its contracts, that:
  - 1. Each Member Government/Provider Agency adopts and adheres to the DSHS selected Best Practices.
  - 2. Best Practices will consider the needs of GCBH enrollees and will be implemented in concert with the ethnic, cultural and linguistic characteristics of the GCBH members.

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this policy, CORE Evidence Based Practices and Priority Evidence-Based/Promising Practices will be referred to as “Best Practices”.

3. Guidelines are adopted in consultation with the GCBH Regional Advisory Board that represents the consumers, families and advocates residing in its boundaries.
  4. Practice Guidelines will be compliant with all State and Federal standards and requirements, including those established by legislation.
  5. Member Governments/Provider Agencies provide ongoing staff development to facilitate the implementation and uniform application of the Best Practices.
- B. The GCBH Board of Directors must approve the schedule associated with the implementation of Best Practices. Where required, the GCBH Board will prioritize their implementation.
  - C. GCBH will disseminate the guidelines to all affected providers and, upon request, to enrollees and potential enrollees.
  - D. Provider compliance with this policy will be ensured by inclusion of this requirement in provider contracts and through ongoing oversight during annual contract/performance audits.
    1. The results of these reviews will be reviewed as part of the GCBH Quality Improvement and Utilization Management programs.
  - E. GCBH will promote and monitor Best Practice fidelity through a process of peer review (utilizing other agencies to monitor the practices of other agencies).
    1. The results of these reviews will be reviewed as part of the GCBH Quality Improvement and Utilization Management programs.
  - F. Guidelines will be reviewed periodically by the GCBH Medical Director and the GCBH Board of Directors to ensure their ongoing applicability with requirements and clinical relevance.

**V. Expected Outcome (s):**

- A. GCBH will maintain a delivery system that incorporates Best Practices in its treatment of enrollees.
- B. GCBH will foster the implementation of Best Practices in a manner that builds on existing clinical activities.

**VI. Scheduled Review of this Policy:**

The review of the GCBH policies and procedures manual is on a two year cycle. The GCBH policy review and revision approval process is a three month process. This policy is scheduled to be reviewed every second year:

- A. by GCBH staff by September of even years,
- B. by the Regional Advisory Board (RAB) by October of even years,
- C. by the GCBH Board of Directors by November of even years, and
- D. outside of the schedule if required.

Reviewed:

Date:

/S/ William Wilson, DrPH

10/04/06

William Wilson, DrPH  
Interim Director