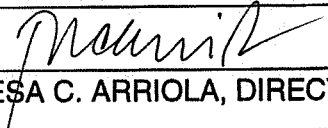


<b>Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center</b>		
<b>TITLE:</b> Service Animal Accommodation Policy	<b>POLICY NO.:</b> AD-CL-07	Page 1 of 3
<b>RESPONSIBILITY:</b> Clinical Services		
<b>APPROVED BY:</b>  THERESA C. ARRIOLA, DIRECTOR	<b>DATE OF ORIGINAL APPROVAL:</b> 7/17/19	
	<b>LAST REVIEWED:</b> 7/17/19	

**POLICY:**

- A. It is the policy of Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center to comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended, and the Department of Justice's implementing regulation Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act 1973, as amended, that broadest access be provided to service animals and that persons using service animals be afforded independent access to the facility.
- B. A service animal shall only be permitted to unrestricted areas of GBHWC provided that the service animal does not pose a direct threat, and that the presence of the service animal would not require a fundamental alteration in the Department's policies or procedures and program services; or impedes the safe operation of the facility.
- C. Any decision to exclude a service animal from an unrestricted area of the Department shall be made by the Psychiatrist based on an individualized assessment as set forth in definition "Direct Threat".
- D. Companion and emotional support animals are not considered service animals if they do not assist an individual with a disability in the activities of daily living. Thus, a companion/emotional support animal is not covered by laws protecting services animals under the ADA and are not allowed in GBHWC premises.
- E. GBHWC does not evaluate and certify an emotional support animal and/or service animal.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- A. Disability: An individual who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities including, but not limited to, walking, talking, seeing, breathing or hearing.
- B. Service Animal: Any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including but limited to:
  1. Guiding individuals with vision impairments
  2. Alerting individuals with hearing impairments to sound
  3. Assisting individuals with mobility impairments with balance
  4. Assisting an individual during a seizure
  5. Helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disability by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

- C. Companion/comfort/emotional support Animal: Emotional support or comfort animals assist persons with psychological disabilities. They can help alleviate symptoms such as depression, anxiety, stress and difficulties regarding social interactions, allowing tenants to live independently and fully use and enjoy their living environment. A companion/comfort animal does not assist an individual with a disability in the activities of daily living. Thus, a **companion/emotional support animal is not covered by laws protecting service animals.**
  
- D. Direct Threat: A significant risk to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated or mitigated by modification of policies, practices, or procedures, or by the provision of auxiliary aids or services. In determining whether a service animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others, GBHWC shall make an individualized assessment, based on reasonable judgment that relies on current medical knowledge or on the best available objective evidence, to ascertain; the nature, duration, and severity of the risk; the probability that the potential injury will actually occur; and whether reasonable modification of policies, practices, or procedures will mitigate the risk.

## **PROCEDURE:**

### General Rules

- A. In a situation where it is not obvious that the animal is a service animal, staff may ask only two specific questions:
  - 1. Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
  - 2. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?
  
- B. Staff is not allowed to request any documentation for the service animal, require the service animal to demonstrate a task, or inquire about the nature of the person's disability.
  
- C. The service animal is allowed to accompany the partner at all times and everywhere in the facility except where service animals are specifically prohibited (see section Areas Off limits to Service Animals)
  
- D. Do not feed or clean up after a service animal. The handler/partner is responsible for caring for and supervising the service animal. Covered entities are not obligated to supervise or otherwise care for the service animal.
  
- E. Service animals must be under the control of the handler at all times. The service animal must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered while in public places unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the persons disability prevents use of these devices.

Areas Off Limits to Service Animals

A. Crisis Stabilization Unit:

1. A service animal is not permitted in the restricted crisis stabilization unit area, which is a locked down unit.
  - a. The consumer will make arrangements for a family member, guardian or friend to care for the service animal.
  - b. If the consumer is unable to make arrangements for someone to care for the service animal, GBHWC may place the service animal in a boarding facility until the consumer is released, or make appropriate arrangements.

Documentation

- A. The Lead Provider shall document in the consumer's electronic medical record, if a consumer has a service animal, and in which area this service animal been restricted.
- B. Any decision to exclude a service animal in a particular area must be documented by the treating provider (Psychiatrist or any Qualified Mental Health Provider) as an individualized assessment in the consumer's electronic medical record.

**REFERENCES:**

*Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 U.S.C § 12181*  
[https://www.ada.gov/service\\_animals\\_2010.htm](https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm)



**GUAM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER**

790 Gov. Carlos G. Camacho Rd. Tamuning, Guam 96913

TEL: (671) 647-5330 FAX: (671) 649-6948

**REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT CERTIFICATION**

The signatories on this document acknowledge that they have reviewed and approved the following:

**Policy Title: Service Animal Accommodation Policy**

**Policy No: AD-CL-07**

**Initiated by: Clinical Services**

Date	Signature
7/3/2019	

Cydsel Toledo  
Quality Improvement Coordinator

Date	Signature
7/3/2019	

Reina Sanchez  
Clinical Administrator

Date	Signature
7/3/2019	

Dr. Ariel Ismael  
Medical Director

Date	Signature
7.3.2019	

Dr. Mary Fegurur  
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Date	Signature
7/3/19	

Jeremy Lloyd-Taitano, RN-BC  
Acting Nurse Administrator

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CASD Administrator

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7/3/19	

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Project Tulaika Director

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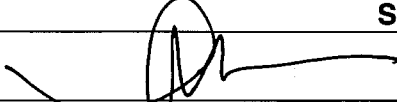
Sijermalin Pineda  
Program Manager-RRP




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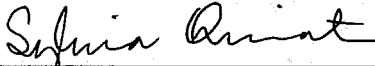
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Date	Signature
7.3.19	

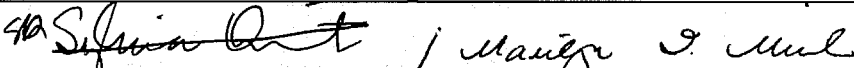
Athena Duenas  
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Maria Teresa Aguon  
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Date	Signature
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Sylvia Quinata  
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Marilyn Miral  
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