NORTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: PSYCHIATRIC ADVANCE DIRECTIVES (PACT/IOP)

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ORIGINAL DATE: 4/21/11

REVIEW/REVISE DATE:

APPROVAL:	Rosalyne Reynolds {s}	, Agency Director
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#### I. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to assure that consumers receiving treatment are informed about Psychiatric Advance Directives and provided assistance in completing required documentation. Psychiatric Advance Directives provide instructions to psychiatric professionals about a consumer's desired treatment should they become unable to provide informed consent.

### II. POLICY

It is the policy of Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS) to assure that every current and future consumer in the Program of Assertive Community Treatment and Intensive Outpatient Services will be given the opportunity to develop a Psychiatric Advance Directive. The Psychiatric Advance Directive would dictate the consumer's treatment preferences should they become unable to make sound decisions and/or informed consent about their treatment.

#### III. DEFINITION

1. Psychiatric Advance Directive (PAD): A document which is designed to allow a consumer to specify treatment preferences such as desired medications and hospital preferences (within the bounds of good medical practice) in

advance, should they become unable to make decisions or give informed consent. Nevada statute requires that a PAD be attached to a Durable Power of Attorney.

## IV. PROCEDURES

- 1. PACT and Intensive Outpatient staff will educate each consumer on the purpose, risks and benefits of the PAD.
- Staff will assist any consumer that requests assistance with completing the PAD documentation.
  - A. The Durable Power of Attorney documentation cannot be completed by NNAMHS staff.
  - B. Consumers completing the PAD will be assisted by staff to arrange to meet with low cost or free legal counsel to complete the Durable Power of Attorney.
- 3. Upon completion, the PAD original will be given to the client and a copy will be placed in the NNAMHS medical record.
- 4. An alert notice will be placed in the electronic record alerting staff to the existence of a PAD in the medical record.
- The Service Coordinator for a consumer with a completed PAD will ensure inpatient staff is aware of the PAD.
- 6. If the consumer declines or does not wish to have a PAD, this will be documented on the admission document in the consumers record.