## APPENDIX C5

## **Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency**

## Sliding Fee Scale Policy Statement July 1, 2010

The purpose of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA) funding of services for abuse of alcohol and other drugs is to ensure that such services are made available to all Nevadans independent of the person's ability to pay. Accordingly, a person may not be denied access to SAPTA-funded services for abuse of alcohol and other drugs due to his or her ability to pay for the service.

Assessment of fees according to a sliding schedule of fees does not, in itself, ensure access to services due to ability to pay because the client may lack the funds to pay even reduced fees. In these cases, no copay percentage will be collected.

Any practice which establishes a fiscal barrier to client access to SAPTA-funded services can result in SAPTA withholding or terminating all or part of the funding to the program operator. Examples of such practices are:

- 1. Requiring an administrative processing fee be paid prior to access to SAPTA-funded services;
- 2. Requiring an assessment or evaluation fee be paid prior to access to SAPTA-funded services;
- 3. Requiring that a deposit be made towards the anticipated bill prior to access to SAPTA-funded services;
- 4. Requiring that the person pay his or her fee prior to access to SAPTA-funded services.
- 5. Termination of services due to failure to pay in a manner other than that specified by SAPTA concerning individuals who are able to pay, but refuse to do so.
- 6. Failing to inform persons inquiring about availability of services that services funded by SAPTA are available independent of ability to pay; and cannot base client's ability to pay on future earnings.
- 7. Denial of services due to the client's ability to pay for concomitant services or materials which are not funded by SAPTA. For example, if the program design is such that access to SAPTA-funded Level II services requires co-enrollment in unfunded Transitional Housing provided by the program operator, the program operator must make the Transitional Housing service also available independent of client ability to pay. To do otherwise would result in tacit denial of access to SAPTA-funded Level II services due to ability to pay.

The foregoing are independent of the client's referral source and independent of whether the client has stated motivation to enter treatment subsequent to assessment. This has important implications for forensic clients:

- If a client is seeking assessment solely for the purpose of obtaining a report to a court, the client is still to be provided assessment independent of his or her ability to pay. However, the program may unbundle the report on the findings of the assessment from the assessment itself. The client then is provided assessment independent of ability to pay, but any report to a court on the findings of the assessment is a separately billed service. The program then may choose to prepare and send a report to the court only after the client has paid the program a reasonable fee for doing so. If the program chooses to unbundle court reports as a separately billed service, it is incumbent upon the program to inform the client of this prior to the assessment being conducted.
- If a client is court-ordered to treatment, or is in treatment as a condition of parole, reports to verify client participation in, or completion of, treatment, *may not* be unbundled as a separately-billed service. Clients being provided SAPTA subsidized treatment independent of ability to pay must also be provided reports of participation or completion also independent of ability to pay. Such reports or certificates of completion of treatment may not be withheld due to ability to pay.