Policy: In the event of the death of a consumer residing in a Division-operated inpatient or residential facility, specific procedures must be followed in reporting the death to certain personnel and in determining the disposition of deceased consumer's property.

Purpose: These procedures will ensure proper reporting and handling of a consumer's death as well as the disposition of deceased consumer's property.

Scope: Division wide MHDS-operated inpatient and residential facilities.

Procedures:

I. The following agencies/individuals are to be notified immediately upon an agency's knowledge of consumers' death:

   A. Local police or sheriff's department, if appropriate;
   B. County coroner, if appropriate;
   C. Division Administrator or Deputy Administrator;
   D. Licensing and/or regulatory authority;
   E. Next of kin and/or legal guardian;
   F. Committing court, district attorney, public defender or private attorney, if appropriate.

II. The death of any consumer residing in a Division-operated inpatient or Division-operated residential facility will be reported and investigated following the process outlined in Division Policy 4.054 Sentinel Events. In all consumer deaths the agency director or designee will request a copy of the coroner's report. The Division Administrator or designee will report high profile/ unusual consumer deaths and deaths as a result of suicide to the Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services and to the Deputy Director for the Department of Health and Human Services, upon closure of the incident death. If a consumer in a Division-operated inpatient facility or Division-operated residential facility dies as a result of a seclusion and/or restraint, the Division Administrator or Deputy Administrator will report the consumer death to the Nevada Disability Advocacy Law Center.

III. Agency staff will provide information to the appropriate law enforcement agency and coroner as deemed appropriate.

IV. Any and all media inquires regarding the consumer's death will be referred to the Agency Director and the Division Administrator or Deputy Administrator.

V. For those consumers residing in a Division-operated inpatient facility, or a Division-operated residential facility, each Division agency is responsible for securing the consumer's belongings and releasing them to a family member or disposing of them according to NRS 433.541, NRS 433.542, NRS 433.543, NRS 433.544, NRS 433A.690,

NRS 155.020, NRS 147.040, NRS 147.070, NRS 147.110, NRS 147.120 and NRS 147.130

VI. Each Division agency shall develop specific written procedures to implement the provision of this policy or shall incorporate this policy into the agency policy manual.

ADMINISTRATOR

EFFECTIVE DATE: 3/22/07
REVIEWED / REVISED DATE: 9/21/12
SUPERSEDES: #4.021 Consumer Death and Disposition of Deceased Consumer Property
APPROVED BY MHDS ADMINISTRATOR: 9/21/12
APPROVED BY MHDS COMMISSION: 9/21/12