## NORTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (NNAMHS)

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT:	GRIEF COUNSELING REFERRAL	
NUMBER:	NN-PI-06	Page 1 of 3
ORIGINAL DATE: 2/18/10		
REVIEW/REVISE DATE: 1/17/13		
	Cody L. Phinney	
l.	PURPOSE :  To ensure that appropriate referrals for grief counseling	
II.	POLICY: Grief Counseling is offered to any NNAMHS consumer as needed following a death and by request. In the event of a consumer death, grief counseling may be offered to family, significant others, and/or emergency contacts.	
III.	REFERENCES:	
	Division Policy A 5.2: Performance Improvement: Re for Mental Health Agencies.	view of Client Death

## IV. PROCEDURES

- 1. Grief counseling is provided by the Psychological Services Department.
- 2. Grief counseling may be appropriate in any of the following situations:
  - a. The deceased consumer has been seen in any program within the previous 6 months.
  - b. The notification of death was within the last 30 days.
  - c. Circumstances of the death may lead to severe trauma to the individual reporting the death.
  - d. A family member reports a death and requests grief counseling.
  - e. There is a family member and/or emergency contact number listed in the deceased consumer's medical record.
  - f. A consumer currently open to services suffers a loss and requests or agrees to grief counseling.
- 3. Any clinician may refer a consumer in need of grief counseling to the Psychological Services Director.
- 4. If a psychologist is already treating the consumer, that individual will provide the grief counseling.
- 5. In the event of a consumer death, the Performance Improvement Coordinator will notify the Psychological Services Director of a possible need for grief counseling. The contact information will be included in the notification.
- 6. Contact by the Psychology Department will be attempted within 3 working days.
- 7. Up to three attempts to contact the person (s) will be made and documented in the electronic medical record.

- 8. If grief counseling is requested, the psychologist will schedule the appointment within seven working days, if at all possible.
- 9. Grief counseling will consist of one session to assess and assist should longer term counseling be required.
- 10. A resource list for additional services and possible referrals will be provided.
- 11. All contacts and sessions will be documented in the electronic medical record.
- 12. The Performance Improvement Coordinator indicates whether or not grief counseling was offered when entering the death into the incident tracking system.