



## Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre

### CODE OF ETHICS

#### PREAMBLE

*Code of Ethics* of the Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Center is to serve as a standard of conduct for the organization, the staff and affiliates. It contains standards of ethical behavior for interactions with clients; other members of the Health Centre or healthcare system, the community and society as a whole. This document is inclusive of the Traditional Code of Ethics.

As a health care institution we will honor the principles of bioethics in caring for our patients, peers and the organization:

- Beneficence- is the concept of doing good
- Non-maleficence- is the concept of not doing any harm
- Autonomy- the concept of respecting others, especially their rights to make their own decisions with respect to their lives and bodies. It is affected by traditions, culture, religion, and personal beliefs. It includes the right to privacy and confidentiality.
- Justice means that each person is as deserving of respect and consideration as the next, regardless of age, gender, skin color, ethnic background or religion. In bio- ethics, justice has to do with health care allocation. All people should have access to the medical care they need, according to what is available. This does not mean that people should get the exact same health care, but the health care that is necessary and best for them.

The fundamental objectives of the *Code of Ethics* are to maintain or enhance the overall quality of life, dignity and well-being of every individual seeking healthcare service in our Health Centre and to create a more equitable, accessible, effective and efficient healthcare system. It is our objective to serve the community and provide quality programs and culturally sensitive services, which meet the holistic needs of individuals, families, and community.

Our Health Centre, the staff and associates assume the following responsibilities:

#### RESPONSIBILITIES TO CLIENTS\*

- Ensure all clients are treated with dignity, compassion, courtesy, honor and respect.
- Communicate the Bill of Rights and Responsibilities to all clients.
- Work to ensure a safe environment for all clients
- Be provided with appropriate, well-planned and coordinated quality care.
- To respect the customs and practices of clients
- Encourage clients' participation in decisions regarding care, treatment options, rehabilitation and discharge plans.
- Always show respect which is a basic law of life.
- Always treat clients with honor and consideration and give the best of what you have.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE WORK ENVIRONMENT & THE ORGANIZATION

- Uphold the Mission, Vision and Values of the Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Center
- Conduct all personal and professional activities with honesty, integrity, respect, fairness, dignity and good faith in a manner that will reflect well upon the organization.

Work to promote and evaluate the quality of care

- Provide services within the available resources and ensure the existence of a resource allocation process that considers ethical ramifications
- Work to facilitate the resolution of conflicts that may arise
- Maintain an environment where there is intolerance for abuse
- Creating a work environment that promotes ethical conduct of its employees, including mechanisms for discussing and addressing ethical concerns.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES TO COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY**

- Work to identify and meet the healthcare needs of the community
- Work to support access to healthcare services for all people.
- Conduct activities in cooperative ways that promote linkages, continuity of care and the health of the community
- Comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to healthcare management in the various jurisdictions in which the Health Center is located
- Encourage and participate in public dialogue on healthcare policy issues and advocate solutions that will improve health status and promote quality healthcare
- Show deep respect for the beliefs and religion of others.
- To serve others, to be of some use to family, community, nation, and the world is one of the main purposes for which human beings have been created.
- Know that the hurt of one is the hurt of all and the honor of one is the honor of all.
- To receive strangers and outsiders kindly.
- Treat the earth and all of her aspects as your mother. Show deep respect for the mineral world, the plant world, and the animal world.

## **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

- All professional staff will act in accordance with their own professional code of ethics and will:
  - Appropriately represent yourself and your profession/role within the organization.
  - Listen with courtesy to what others say, even if you feel that what they are saying is worthless. Listen with your heart.
  - Respect the wisdom of people in council. Once you give an idea, it no longer belongs to you, it belongs to everyone.
  - Be truthful at all times.
  - Know those things that lead to your well-being and those things that lead to your destruction.
  - Listen to and follow the guidance given to your heart. Expect guidance to come in many forms: in prayer, in dreams, in solitude and in the words and actions of Elders and friends.
  - Observe moderation and balance in all things.
- Maintain levels of competence and proficiency to meet best practices including a personal program of assessment and continuing education.
- Refrain from the exploitation of professional relationships for personal gain.
- Refrain from financial and other conflicts of interest

\*Client - refers to "Client or Patient"

O: September, 2004 – R: October 2004 – R: February 2007 – R: May 2007