



# NATIONAL YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAM

*Caring for People ~ Connecting Communities ~ Promoting Peace*

## **Auxiliary Aids for Persons with Disabilities Plan**

**National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP)** will take appropriate steps to ensure that persons with disabilities, including persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or blind, or who have other sensory or manual impairments, have an equal opportunity to participate in our services, activities, programs and other benefits. The procedures outlined below are intended to ensure effective communication with patients/clients involving their medical conditions, treatment, services and benefits. The procedures also apply to, among other types of communication, communication of information contained in important documents, including waivers of rights, consent to treatment forms, financial and insurance benefits forms, etc. All necessary auxiliary aids and services shall be provided without cost to the person being served.

All staff will be provided written notice of this policy and procedure, and staff that may have direct contact with individuals with disabilities will be trained in effective communication techniques, including the effective use of interpreters.

### PROCEDURES:

#### **1. Identification and assessment of need:**

NYAP provides notice of the availability of and procedure for requesting auxiliary aids and services through notices in our (brochures, handbooks, letters, print/radio /television advertisements, etc.) and through notices posted (in waiting rooms, lobbies, etc.). When an individual self-identifies as a person with a disability that affects the ability to communicate or to access or manipulate written materials or requests an auxiliary aid or service, staff will consult with the individual to determine what aids or services are necessary to provide effective communication in particular situations.

#### **2. Provision of Auxiliary Aids and Services:**

NYAP shall provide the following services or aids to achieve effective communication with persons with disabilities:

##### **A. For Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

(i) For persons who are deaf/hard of hearing and who use sign language as their primary means of communication, the Florida Executive Director, Katie Lamarco, 1-315-559-0262, is responsible for providing effective interpretation or arranging for a qualified interpreter when needed.

In the event that an interpreter is needed, the above identified individual is responsible for:

Maintaining a list of qualified interpreters on staff showing their names, phone numbers, qualifications and hours of availability.

Contacting the appropriate interpreter on staff to interpret, if one is available and qualified to interpret;  
or

Obtaining an outside interpreter if a qualified interpreter on staff is not available.

(ii) Communicating by Telephone with Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. utilizes relay services for external telephone with TTY users. We accept and make calls through a relay service. The state relay service number is 1-941-351-9545.

(iii) For the following auxiliary aids and services, staff will contact Katie Lamarco, 1-315-559-0262, who is responsible to provide the aids and services in a timely manner:

Note-takers; computer-aided transcription services; telephone handset amplifiers; written copies of oral announcements; assistive listening devices; assistive listening systems; telephones compatible with hearing aids; closed caption decoders; open and closed captioning; telecommunications devices for deaf persons (TDDs); videotext displays; or other effective methods that help make aurally delivered materials available to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

(iv) Some persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may prefer or request to use a family member or friend as an interpreter. However, family members or friends of the person will not be used as interpreters unless specifically requested by that individual and after an offer of an interpreter at no charge to the person has been made by the facility. Such an offer and the response will be documented in the person's file. If the person chooses to use a family member or friend as an interpreter, issues of competency of interpretation, confidentiality, privacy and conflict of interest will be considered. If the family member or friend is not competent or appropriate for any of these reasons, competent interpreter services will be provided.

NOTE: Children and other residents will not be used to interpret, in order to ensure confidentiality of information and accurate communication.