

**Ethics for Opioid Treatment Professionals  
Training Outline  
Friday, September 20, 2013**

**Brief Description:**

**This training will explore the basic principles of professional ethics and ethical behavior as it applies to the field of counseling in general, and then to substance abuse and addiction treatment specifically. Material will be tailored to those working in the field of opioid treatment to address those ethical issues faced by OTPs (Opioid Treatment Programs) and opioid treatment professionals.**

**Introduction & Framework for Ethics in OTPs**

**5 Principles of Ethics**

- i. Beneficence**
- ii. Non-maleficence**
- iii. Autonomy**
- iv. Justice**
- v. Fidelity**

**Ethical Decision Making Model**

- i. Identify the issues**
- ii. Consider options**
- iii. Benefits and consequences of options**
- iv. Make a choice**
- v. Implementation plan**
- vi. Evaluation of plan**

**Code of Ethics & Application in OTPs, Agency Policies  
in OTPs and Ethical Dilemmas**

# Coastal Horizons Center, Inc.

## CODE OF ETHICS

Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. promotes choices for healthier lives and safer communities by providing prevention services, crisis intervention services, community outreach, criminal justice alternative services, outpatient substance abuse and mental health services. Further, Coastal Horizons Center is committed to practicing ethical principles. In accordance with the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors Code of Ethics (NAADAC), Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. has adopted the following twelve principles of practice. Where appropriate, code principles have been revised to meet the overall policy practices of Coastal Horizons Center, Inc.

### PRINCIPLE 1: NON-DISCRIMINATION

Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. shall not discriminate against clients or professionals based on race, religion, age, gender, disability, national ancestry, sexual orientation or economic condition.

### PRINCIPLE 2: RESPONSIBILITY

Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. shall espouse objectivity and integrity, and maintain the highest standards in the services the agency offers.

### PRINCIPLE 3: COMPETENCE

Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. shall recognize that their profession is founded on national standards of competency which promote the best interests of society, the client, the staff, and the agency's mission as a whole. Coastal Horizons Center's staff shall recognize the need for ongoing education as a component of professional competency.

### PRINCIPLE 4: LEGAL AND MORAL STANDARDS

Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. shall uphold the legal and accepted moral codes which pertain to professional conduct.

### PRINCIPLE 5: PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. shall respect the limits of present knowledge in public statements concerning all services provided.

### PRINCIPLE 6: PUBLICATION CREDIT

Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. shall assign credit to all who have contributed to the published material and for the work upon which publication is based.

### PRINCIPLE 7: CLIENT WELFARE

Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. shall promote the protection of the public health, safety and welfare and the best interest of the client as a primary guide in determining the conduct of all staff.

### PRINCIPLE 8: CONFIDENTIALITY

Coastal Horizons Center, Inc., working in the best interest of the client shall embrace, as a primary obligation, the duty of protecting client's rights under confidentiality and shall not disclose confidential information acquired in teaching, practice or investigation without appropriately executed consent.

### PRINCIPLE 9: CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS

It is the responsibility of Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. to safeguard the integrity of the counseling relationship and to ensure that the client has reasonable access to program services. Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. shall provide the client and/or guardian with accurate and complete information regarding the extent of the potential professional relationship.

### PRINCIPLE 10: INTERPROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Coastal Horizons Center, Inc.'s staff shall treat colleagues with respect, courtesy, fairness, and good faith and shall afford the same to other professionals.

### PRINCIPLE 11: REMUNERATION

Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. shall establish financial arrangements in professional practice and in accord with the professional standards that safeguard the best interests of the client first, and then of the counselor, the agency, and the profession.

### PRINCIPLE 12: SOCIETAL OBLIGATIONS

Coastal Horizons Center, Inc.'s staff shall to the best of its ability actively engage the legislative processes, educational institutions, and the general public to change public policy and legislation to make possible opportunities and choice of service for all human beings of any ethnic or social background whose lives are impaired and in need of services offered through Coastal Horizons Center, Inc..

Approved by Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. Board of Trustees on November 13, 2001  
Revised on July 19, 2006

Employee Name \_\_\_\_\_ Employee Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

# Problem Solving Model

- I. **Identify the issues**
  - a. Who are the key players?
  - b. Who is indirectly affected by the decision?
  - c. What are the societal, political, or legal concerns?
  - d. What are other factors that exert influence over my decisions?
  
- II. **Consider the options**
  - a. What are my likely choices?
  - b. What does my intuition tell me to do?
  
- III. **Benefits and consequences**
  - a. What benefits to each party are there for each decision?
  - b. What consequences are there to each party for each decision?
  - c. Would each option treat all parties with equality and fairness?
  - d. Are there contract, legal, or organizational issues that would prohibit an option?
  
- IV. **Make a choice**
  - a. Which choice takes in all considerations with the least cost or damage to all parties?
  - b. Would I feel comfortable telling my “grandmother (or other suitable respected elder)”, my boss, or the media of my decision?
  - c. What is my option of choice?
  
- V. **Implementation plan**
  - a. What are the steps I need to take to implement my option of choice?
  - b. Who needs to be notified of my choice?
  - c. What consequences do I need to plan to address?
  
- VI. **Evaluation of plan**
  - a. How did it go?
  - b. What would I do differently next time?
  - c. Was there information that would have been helpful to have before I made my decision?
  - d. Would I make the same choice again?