

# **CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD POLICY STATEMENT**

**SUBJECT: ABILITY TO PAY (INDIGENCE)**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: MARCH 26, 2002**

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## **PURPOSE**

To define client ability to pay in order to better serve with the public funds available to the CCCMHB the citizens of Cuyahoga County in need of mental health services.

## **POLICY**

The Board will consider a person to be economically disadvantaged when the ability to pay for services does not directly exist, and where a third party payment, through sources such as insurance, federal, state, or local entitlement programs, or guardianship is unavailable.

Determination of ability to pay is the responsibility of the mental health provider entity and shall be consistent with the CCCMHB s approved fee schedule for the entity.

The CCCMHB funds may be used subject to availability when the following conditions are met:

1. The individual does not have the ability to pay directly or indirectly; and
2. The provider entity has an established fee schedule approved by CCCMHB and client documentation sufficient to support the entity s decision as to the status of the client as indigent.

**Supersedes and retires: Ability to Pay Policy Statement, effective April 24, 1997**

Reference: None

Valeria A. Harper-Bledsoe  
Acting C.E.O.

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CCCMHB Chief Executive Officer

Michael J. Thomas

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CCCMHB Board Chair

March 25, 2002

03/04

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Approval date

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Review date