



NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES OF LCSNW
Effective Date: December 12, 2011

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY.

If you have any questions about this Notice, please contact the Director of Organizational Excellence at 206-816-3209 or hipaa@lcsnw.org.

OUR PLEDGE REGARDING HEALTH INFORMATION:

We understand that your health information is personal and we are required by law to protect such information. We are also required to provide you with this Notice, which we must follow, that explains our legal duties and privacy practices.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU:

Our uses and disclosures of your health information fall into the categories below. We will not use or disclose your health information for any other purposes unless you give us your written authorization to do so. You may revoke an authorization, at any time, in writing, except to the extent that we may have taken an action in reliance on the use or disclosure indicated in the authorization.

A. Uses and Disclosures for Treatment, Payment and Operations.

- **For Treatment.** We may use and disclose your health information for treatment activities. For example, an LCSNW counselor may need to know if you are receiving other services at LCSNW.
- **For Payment.** We may use and disclose your health information for payment activities. For example, in order to obtain payment, we may give your health plan information about your care.
- **For Health Care Operations.** We may use and disclose your health information to support our operational activities. For example, we may use health information to review our services and to evaluate the performance of our staff in caring for you.

B. Uses and Disclosures of Your Health Information We May Make Unless You Object.

- **Appointment Reminders.** We may use and disclose health information to contact you as a reminder that you have an appointment for services at LCSNW.
- **Treatment Alternatives.** We may use and disclose health information to tell you about or recommend possible treatment options or alternatives that may be of interest to you.
- **Individuals Involved in Your Care.** We may release health information to a person who is involved in your medical care or helps pay for your care unless you restrict such disclosure.
- **In the Event of a Disaster.** In the event of a disaster, we may disclose your health information to assist in relief efforts, coordinate care, and inform your family about your condition and location.
- **Directories.** We may list certain limited information about you, including your name, location in a facility, and your general condition (fair, stable, etc.) in our directory.

C. Uses and Disclosures We May Make Without Your Authorization.

- **Required By Law.** We will disclose your health information as required by law.
- **Health or Safety.** We may use and disclose your health information to a person who is able to prevent or lessen a serious threat to the health and safety of you or the public.
- **Business Associates.** We may disclose your health information to our business associates that perform functions or services on our behalf.
- **Organ and Tissue Donation.** If you are an organ donor, we may release your health information to organ procurement or transplantation organizations or to an organ donation bank.
- **Military and Veterans.** If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release health information as required by military command authorities.
- **Workers' Compensation.** We may release your health information to workers' compensation or similar programs.
- **Public Health.** We may disclose your health information for public health activities.

- **Health Oversight Activities.** We may disclose health information to a health oversight agency.
- **Lawsuits and Disputes.** We may disclose your health information to answer a court or administrative order, subpoena, discovery request, or other process as permitted by law.
- **Law Enforcement.** We may release your health information to law enforcement officials as permitted by law.
- **Fundraising Activities.** We may use and disclose your health information to contact you in an effort to raise money. Any fundraising materials will contain an opt-out option.
- **Research.** We may use and disclose your health information for research as permitted by law.
- **Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors.** We may release your health information to a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director as necessary.
- **National Security and Intelligence Activities.** We may release your health information to federal officials as authorized for intelligence and other national security purposes.
- **Protective Services for the President and Others.** We may disclose your health information to authorized officials for the protection of the President and others.
- **Inmates or Individuals in Custody.** If you are an inmate, we may release health information to the appropriate correctional institution or law enforcement official.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU:

You have the following rights regarding health information we maintain about you:

- **Right to Inspect and Copy.** You have the right to inspect and copy your health information for a fee. We may deny inspection and copying in limited circumstances.
- **Right to Amend.** You may ask, in writing, for us to amend your healthcare information kept by LSCNW. We may deny your request for an amendment in certain circumstances.
- **Right to an Accounting of Disclosures.** You have the right to request, in writing, an accounting of our disclosures of your health information.
- **Right to Request Restrictions.** You have the right to request, in writing, a restriction of our use or disclosure of your health information for treatment, payment or health care operations. We are not required to agree to such restriction unless the disclosure is to a health plan for payment or health care operations and pertains solely to an item or service for which you have paid out-of-pocket in full.
- **Right to Request Confidential Communications.** You have the right to request, in writing, that we communicate with you about health matters in a certain way to maintain confidentiality. We will agree to reasonable communication requests.
- **Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice.** At any time, you have the right to a paper copy of this Notice, even if you have agreed to receive this Notice electronically.

CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE:

We reserve the right to change the terms of this Notice at any time. The revised Notice will apply to all of your health information that we maintain. We will provide you with a revised notice upon your visit to LSCNW, through our web site (www.lcsnw.org), or through mail if requested.

Complaints:

If you believe that your privacy rights have been violated, you may register a complaint with us or to by calling 206-816-3209 and asking for our Privacy Officer. You may also file a complaint with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. The Privacy Officer can provide you with information about filing a complaint. ***You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.***