

THE COUNSELING SOURCE, INC. POLICY AND PROCEDURE

TITLE: Extreme Weather

PURPOSE: To ensure that The Counseling Source, Inc., has a plan to maintain the health and safety of meets all applicable federal, state and local requirements for health, safety and accessibility so that services can be provided in a safe and comfortable environment.

POLICY: The Counseling Source, Inc., will be in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local requirements for health, safety and accessibility.

PROCEDURE:

1. At Orientation and annually thereafter, training will occur about the risk of heat/cold weather-related problems for those on psychotropic medications, identification of clients who are at greatest risk, and about appropriate prevention and treatment of heat/cold weather-related emergencies.
2. During times of officially declared weather emergencies, The Counseling Source Staff will identify clients who are at high risk of weather-related problems based on the any of following criteria:
 - a. Homelessness
 - b. Client spends a large amount of time outside
 - c. Client lives in a dwelling without air conditioning (in times of a heat emergency)
 - d. Client lives in a dwelling with inadequate heating (in times of winter weather advisories)
 - e. Client must leave dwelling to obtain essential medication/treatment
3. During weather emergencies, the responsible staff member will then attempt to make any appropriate contacts/arrangements for the client including but not limited to:
 - a. Phone the community-based (non-residential) clients at least weekly to ensure their safety. If the staff member is unable to contact the client, the police will be requested to check on the client.
 - b. Attempt to arrange a stay in a temporary dwelling with adequate facilities until the weather emergency is lifted.
 - c. Contact the client's case manager to assist in the alternative placement or services for the client.

REFERENCED STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS:

ODMH OAC 5122-26-12; CARF Behavioral Health Standards Manual

EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/4/2005

REVIEWED: February 2018

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