



# Spokane Area Workforce Development Council

## **MANAGEMENT OF MEDICAL & DISABILITY-RELATED INFORMATION**

SAWDC Policies and Procedures

**POLICY #: G107**

Effective Date: November 28, 2012

### **BACKGROUND:**

This Spokane Area Workforce Development Council (SAWDC) policy outlines the requirements related to the WorkSource system's management of medical records and disability-related information on applicants, registrants, eligible applicants or registrants, participants, and terminees. This includes an outline of permissible uses, filing requirements and confidentiality requirements.

### **POLICY:**

SAWDC and WorkSource Spokane Partners must ensure that medical and disability-related information is collected and used as outlined by federal law and this information notice. The following guidelines will help meet the requirements related to the management of medical and disability-related information:

1. Medical and disability-related documents must be secured and maintained in a unique client file. Medical and disability files should be stored as a medical record, and must be separate from all other confidential information (e.g. court documents).
2. Medical and disability-related information contained in case notes, assessment forms, or other documentation in the database must be secured in the client file. This is accomplished by copying the specific sheet of the case note file, assessment form or language in the database that contains medical or disability related information, placing it in the medical and disability file, then redacting the medical and disability-related information in the paper case notes, assessment form or language in database and inserting 'See medical file'.
3. When the client exits the program, medical and disability-related information must be placed in one sealed envelope marked 'Medical and Disability Information' and then must be secured in the client file.
4. Partner staff co-located at a center should place their medical and disability-related information with the participant's files. Please note that medical and disability-related information should not be stored in staff desks.
5. To ensure confidentiality, there should be limited access to the medical and disability file. First aid and safety personnel may be informed in case of an evacuation. Also, individuals monitoring for compliance with 29 CFR Part 32 and 37 may have access for monitoring purposes.

6. The information that is of value to staff is most often the effect of the medical impairment on the client's ability to advance through the program, as opposed to a medical diagnosis. It is possible to record relevant information without documenting actual medical or disability-related information.
- a. Here are examples of information that is not considered medical or disability-related for the purpose of securing and maintaining:  
  
"The client cannot lift more than 20 pounds"; "cannot sit for more than an hour"; "must take frequent breaks or must take breaks at least every hour"; "must be located in a quiet room with few interruptions"; "cannot drive in mornings until 9 a.m."; "will be unavailable during the next six weeks"; etc.
  - b. Here are examples of information that is considered medical/disability information and must be secured:  
  
"The client has a herniated disk"; "stage 2 abdominal cancer"; "crohn's disease"; "seasonal affective disorder"; "hypertension"; "diabetes"; "a fractured tibia"; "mild depression"; etc.
7. Medical and disability-related information can be acquired during the delivery of case management services but should then be stored securely. This information should not be shared with those providing labor exchange and/or job matching services.

**REFERENCE:**

- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, promulgated at 29 CFR Part 32.15(d).
- The Washington State Methods of Administration (MOA) Element 5.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended.
- USDOL CRC MS PowerPoint presentation, Disability-Related Information: Asking, Telling, Using and Storing (2007).
- WIA Section 188
- 29 CFR 32.15
- Washington State WIN #0023 Management of Medical and Disability-Related Information
- Applicable SAWDC-issued Technical Guidance and/or Procedures