

# ***OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF LICENSED ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELORS***

## ***LADC/MH CODE OF ETHICS***

LADC/MH Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **1 – Non-discrimination**

LADC/MH counselors must not discriminate against clients or other counselors based on race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation or mental or physical disability.

### **2 – Responsibilities**

LADC/MH counselors shall exercise professional judgment when dealing with clients and other professionals, and at all times, shall maintain the best interests of the client when providing counseling.

### **3 – Competence**

LADC/MH counselors shall provide competent professional service to clients. Competent professional service requires thorough knowledge of alcohol and drug abuse, mental disorders, and the interactive relationship of these disorders and skill in presentation and counseling techniques, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary to assure the highest level of quality care to a client, and a willingness to maintain state-of-the-art knowledge through on-going professional education in co-occurring specific training and education.

### **4 – Professional Standards**

LADC/MH counselors shall maintain the highest professional standards and shall not:

- Claim either directly or by implication, professional knowledge, qualifications or affiliations that they do not possess;
- Lend their names to, or participate in, any professional and/or business relationship which may misrepresent or mislead the public in any way;
- compromise professional status as co-occurring recovery counselors with clients through the association, development and/or promotion of books or other products offered for commercial sale;
- Fail to recognize the effect of professional impairment or professional performance and must be willing to seek appropriate treatment for themselves.

### **5 – Professional Obligations to the Public**

LADC/MH counselors must not state or imply a higher degree of knowledge and/or insight into alcoholism and drug abuse than would be available through similarly situated and/or trained professionals.

### **6 – Publications**

LADC/MH counselors that participate in the writing, editing, or publication of professional papers, pamphlets, or books, must act to preserve the integrity of the profession by acknowledging and documenting any materials and/or techniques used in creating their opinions, papers, books, etc.

### **7 – Client Welfare**

LADC/MH counselors must place the best interest of clients before conflicting professional commitments or professional gain.

LADC/MH counselors shall always strive to provide an appropriate setting for clinical work to ensure professionalism, and to provide a supportive environment for those clients having special needs

### **8 – Confidentiality**

LADC/MH counselors shall not reveal information relating to a client unless the client consents to such release of information in writing, and after consultation with the LADC/MH counselor.

**8 – Confidentiality (continued)**

LADC/MH counselors shall strive to preserve the records and information, regardless of the media used to store such information.

LADC/MH counselors may reveal confidential information to public authorities or other professionals to the extent that the LADC/MH, in their professional capacity, reasonably believe it to be necessary:

- to prevent a client from serious harm whether self-inflicted or inflicted upon a third person,
- to prevent a client in imminent danger or in danger of injuring another person.

**9 – Client Relationships**

LADC/MH counselors shall not:

- make false or misleading communication about the LADC/MH counselor’s abilities, training, and/or experience;
- fail to obtain a client’s permission for recording a session, for involving any third party in a session, or for releasing information pertaining to the client;
- enter into a business relationship with any other person when to do so would be adverse to the interest of any of the counselor’s clients;
- engage in any sexual activity with a client
- enter into a counseling arrangement with a client if the counseling of that client could be materially limited by the LADC/MH counselor’s own responsibilities to, or relationship with, a third person or property.

**10 – Professional Integrity**

LADC/MH counselors must agree to cooperate and adhere to the principles of Professional Responsibility of the licensing and disciplinary authority of the State in which they practice.

The LADC/MH counselor shall:

- never knowingly make a false statement to any disciplinary authority;
- report violations of professional conduct of other counselors in the appropriate licensing/disciplinary authority, when the LADC/MH counselor has knowledge that another counselor has violated professional standards;
- not fail to disclose a material fact which could adversely affect a counselor-client relationship.

**11 – Financial Arrangements**

LADC/MH counselors shall establish reasonable financial arrangements based on the fees customarily charged in the counselor’s locality for similar services.

LADC/MH counselors shall not accept fees or gratuities for professional work from a person who is entitled to, and, is reliant upon, such services through an institution and/or agency.

**12 – Professional Promotion**

LADC/MH counselors will strive to maintain and promote the integrity and advancement of the LADC/MH counselor profession.

Whenever possible, LADC/MH counselors shall render services at a reduced cost, or at no cost, to the disadvantaged or impoverished person requiring counseling, as a means of promoting the good will of the LADC/MH counseling profession.

**Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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