

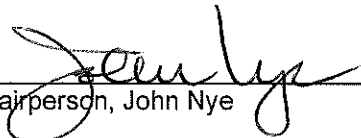
FOUR COUNTY BOARD OF ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION,
AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Subject: Philosophy of Policy Governance

Serial No. 2.1
Page 1 of 2

Adopted: 10-9-86

Revised: 5-10-90, 9-10-92, 5-10-04, 6-10-10, 5-11-23, 5-08-25


Chairperson, John Nye

In fulfilling its role, the Board will prioritize:

- A. outward vision rather than an internal preoccupation
- B. strategic leadership rather than administrative detail,
- C. the future rather than past or present

Success in complying with this policy relies on clear distinctions of authority and responsibility of the Board and its CEO. What follows is a brief delineation of those separate authorities.

1. In this spirit, the Board will:
 - A. Focus chiefly on intended long-term impacts on the world outside the organization [ends], not on the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those effects.
 - B. Direct, control and inspire the organization through the careful establishment of the broadest organizational values and perspectives [policies].
 - C. Enforce upon itself and its members whatever discipline is needed to govern with fairness and foresight. Discipline will apply to matters such as attendance, policymaking principles, and respect of clarified roles, speaking with one voice and self-policing of any tendency to stray from governance adopted in Board policies.
 - D. Be accountable to the general public for competent, conscientious and effective accomplishment of its obligations as a body. It will allow no officer, individual or committee of the Board to usurp this role or hinder this commitment.
 - E. Monitor and regularly discuss the Board's own process and performance. Insure the continuity of its governance capability by retraining and redevelopment.
 - F. Be an initiator of policy, not merely a reactor to staff initiatives. The Board, not the staff, will be responsible for Board performance.
2. As an essential means to carry out the intentions of this policy, the Board expects, requires and authorizes its CEO to use his/her discretionary judgment to make decisions and expenditures on specific items and specific activities within the broad categories approved by the Board annually in its office budget. Failure of the CEO to comply with this Board expectation would cause the Board to necessarily drift into unwanted pre-occupation with administrative detail.

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The Board approves annually a portion of its office budget identified as "Public Information and Education." As the title implies, the intent of the Board is to promote community information/education. Although what follows is not intended to be an exhaustive/complete list, it serves to illustrate the kinds of items or activities its executive director may decide to authorize:

- A. The ADAMhs Advantage Newsletter
- B. Board Annual Report
- C. Community Resource Guide
- D. Annual Board Dinner
- E. Support Group costs
- F. Awareness campaigns
- G. Annual education promotion directed to public and parochial school employees
- H. Board training
- I. Healthcare professional training opportunities
- J. Resource Room purchases

In the interest of hospitality and/or professional courtesy, the Board expects under the Office Budget line item "Other expenses" that the CEO will, from time to time, authorize the purchase of light refreshments [no alcohol] for meetings, training events, and workshops. Likewise, the Board supports the CEO's discretion in his/her authorization of such things as the purchase of recognition/retirement gifts and expressions of good wishes/support in time of illness or death among those within our Community Support System. Such purchases will be done on behalf of the Board and/or staff but not on behalf of an individual board or staff member.

Consistent with Policy Governance, if the Board at any time feels the need or desire to restrict/limit the discretion of the executive director as it pertains to the matters outlined in this policy, the policy will be amended to spell out those restrictions/limitations.

Monitor: Board to review/re-affirm this policy annually in May or June.