

BOARD POLICY STATEMENT

GOVERNING STYLE and CODE OF CONDUCT

Approved: 11/10/09 BCCF Approved: 1/12/10

Policy 001

1. The Board sees itself as the servant-leader to the group of homeless persons that it morally, if not legally, represents. It further recognizes itself as a distinct link in the chain of command to those it represents and considers itself as the representative of the Homeless Coalition of Greater Battle Creek & Calhoun County (Coalition). It exists to exercise that authority and properly empower others within limits, as it bears the ultimate accountability for the performance expectations it delegates to others.
2. The Board uses the expertise of individual members to enhance the ability of the Board as a body, rather than to substitute the individual judgments for the Board's values. The Board makes authoritative decisions directed toward management and toward itself, its individual members, and committees only as a total group. That is, the Board's authority is a group authority rather than a summation of individual authorities.
3. The Board continually interprets the purpose and mission of the Homeless Coalition of Greater Battle Creek & Calhoun County, creating policy statements that describe the achievement that constitutes Coalition success. These statements identify the long-term impacts outside the Coalition, not on the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those effects.
4. Members of the Board must avoid conflict of interest with respect to their fiduciary responsibility. There will be no self-dealing or business by a member with the Coalition. Board members will not use their Board position to obtain employment in the Coalition for themselves, family members, or close associates.
 - a. When the Board is to decide upon an issue, about which a member has an unavoidable conflict of interest, or involves employment for a close associate, that member shall absent herself or himself without comment from not only the vote, but also from the deliberation.
 - b. Should a Board member apply for employment, he or she must first resign from the board.
5. Board members may not attempt to exercise individual authority over the Coalition. Members' interaction with the executive or with staff must recognize the lack of authority vested in individuals except when explicitly Board authorized.
6. Members will respect the confidentiality appropriate to issues of a sensitive nature.
7. Members will be properly prepared for Board deliberation.