

SUBJECT: EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Background: The City of Madison is committed to carrying out a diverse range of complex programs, policies, and missions. Our employees are our most valuable resource in fulfilling these responsibilities. We recognize that employees may face challenges that can impact their well-being and job performance. As an organization, we are dedicated to supporting our staff through these difficulties, ensuring they have the resources and assistance needed to thrive both personally and professionally, and to continue contributing effectively to the City's mission.

Policy: The City of Madison is committed to maintaining and promoting an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that will help employees, and their family members/significant others in the household to navigate personal, behavioral, medical or work-related issues.

Guidelines: The Employee Assistance Program is staffed by an EAP Director, two EAP Specialists, and a Confidential Program Assistant. In addition, we have an internal network of employees, designated as EAP Facilitators and/or First Responder Peer Support Team members, who are recruited from the workforce and receive special training to help promote the program and act as a link to the professional resources. The program also contracts with an external EAP Provider giving employees or family members in the household the option of accessing services internally or externally. Organizationally, the Employee Assistance Program is a stand-alone City office with budgetary accountability to the Mayor's Office. The internal and external EAP staff are trained EAP professionals that provide confidential assessment, information and referral to appropriate resources. These may include, but are not limited to community resources, City services, or resources provided by the Employee's Health Care Plan.

In operating its Employee Assistance Program, the City acknowledges that:

1. The impact of personal, behavioral, medical or work related issues can be lessened or remedied by timely and appropriate assistance/treatment. Such concerns include, but are not limited to:
 - Marital, family or relationship
 - Emotional and mental health
 - Alcohol and drugs
 - Financial
 - Grief
 - Work stress
 - Medical
2. Participation in the EAP is always voluntary and lack of participation in it is NOT a cause for disciplinary action.
3. No record of services provided by the EAP is entered in an employee's personnel file or reported to management.

Referral Procedures: Employees, family members/significant others in the household may contact the City's internal EAP staff, or the external EAP Provider. All employee contact with the Employee Assistance Program is voluntary.

Supervisors should encourage employees to contact EAP when persistent job performance concerns occur. If taking disciplinary action, supervisors are required to offer EAP at each stage of the disciplinary process. When an employee is referred to the EAP by their supervisor, the

employee may choose whether or not to use the program and whom they will contact (the internal or external EAP).

Confidentiality Guidelines:

All EAP contacts, which include dates, times and content of sessions with EAP staff, are confidential with the following exceptions:

1. When making an appointment with a referral resource at the employee's request, it is permissible to give the employee's name and other identifying information, i.e., phone number, if needed. However, personal information, or details of your conference with the employee, may not be disclosed without written consent from the employee.
2. Only at the employee's request, may information be shared. However, prior written consent must be obtained, which specifies exactly what information is to be disclosed, to whom, and for what purpose.
3. EAP contacts with the internal or external EAP staff, or an EAP Facilitator are confidential unless the information disclosed concerns:
 - a. An unexplained, unusual, or suspicious death.
 - b. A case of suspected abuse or suspected neglect of a child or elder.
 - c. A threat to one's own life or safety or that of another,
 - d. A threat to commit, or report of committing, a serious crime.
 - e. A threat to public health and safety.
4. If any of the internal EAP staff are served with a subpoena requesting information covered by these guidelines, the EAP Director will notify the employee and consult the City Attorney before any information is released. The EAP Director shall reveal to the City Attorney only information that is necessary for the City Attorney to take appropriate action.

Types of Referrals:

Self-Referral: Employees with personal concerns are encouraged to seek help on their own initiative before health or job performance is affected. They can discuss their concerns with the internal, or the external EAP staff. EAP staff will assist the employee in contacting their health care provider or in contacting appropriate community resources, if requested. The EAP can also follow up with employees to determine satisfaction with the referral and offer additional support, if needed.

Supervisory: Whenever an employee with an established record of acceptable work evidences a pattern of inconsistent or deteriorating job performance that fails to respond to supervisory input (e.g., verbal instructions, written job instructions, discussion of job performance), the supervisor should encourage the employee to contact the EAP.

When taking disciplinary action, the supervisor must make the employee aware of the City's EAP services. The employee retains the right to accept or reject this offer of assistance. This offer must be repeated at each stage of the progressive discipline process, using the following procedures:

1. Constructively approach the employee about job performance concerns:
 - a. Give an accurate and specific description of job behavior seen or heard and its effect.
 - b. State what job behavioral changes are required and possible consequences if the change does not occur.
2. Make the offer of assistance (see attached letter).
 - a. When an employee requests help or is experiencing job performance concerns, it is the policy of the City of Madison to offer the EAP. Use of EAP may prevent further deterioration in job performance and the need for additional disciplinary action. All discipline concerns may not have EAP solutions, but it must still be offered.
 - b. EAP can provide information, referral and support for personal concerns, which sometimes impact work performance. Note that this may not be the case for them, but just because sometimes it is true, the offer of EAP is made.
 - c. Emphasize that use of EAP is voluntary, confidential and free.
 - d. Provide employee with the following:
 - Dated and signed EAP letter which restates the Offer of Assistance.
 - The EAP resource information for both the internal and external programs.
3. Note that seeking help through EAP does not jeopardize their job security or promotional opportunities. These are based on job performance, not on use or non-use of EAP. Job performance expectations must be met regardless of EAP use.
4. If the employee accepts the offer of EAP and wants the supervisor to be involved in the referral, the supervisor must:
 - a. Contact the EAP.
 - b. Share with the EAP the main job performance issues/concerns.
 - c. Offer assistance to schedule an appointment for the employee with the EAP.
 - d. Any information the employee shares with the EAP and whether or not they keep the appointment will not be shared with the supervisor without written authorization from the employee.

Any information the supervisor has about the contact with EAP is confidential in accordance with the Confidentiality Guidelines prior noted.

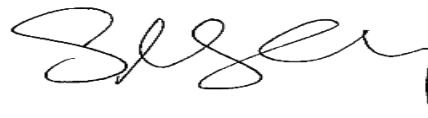
Use of the EAP should not prevent supervisors from taking appropriate disciplinary action if performance issues persist or if issues reoccur after a period of improvement. The Employee Assistance Program is not a substitute for appropriate disciplinary action nor should it be used as a basis for compromising performance expectations or work rules.

Family: Family members and significant others in the employee's household may contact the EAP concerning their own issue or the employee's issues. EAP contact information is made available to City employees and their family members/significant others within their household.

Union/Employee Association: Like supervisors, union stewards/employee representatives often have the opportunity to observe job performance and interactions with other employees. They can play an important part in introducing EAP and encouraging employee utilization. Union stewards/employee representatives may be able to serve as a referral source by supporting the employee and encouraging them to contact the EAP.

An employee who wants to consult with EAP staff during their regular scheduled work hours will be allowed a reasonable amount of time to do so. However, it is necessary for the employee to first arrange for time away from their workstation. This should be done in accordance with the operating procedures that have been established for the work unit to cover such absences. Any other contacts outside of the EAP, i.e., Community Resources, Health Care Providers, etc., are to be done with approved leave in accordance with established policies and procedures.

Training: EAP will develop an annual training plan to ensure that all EAP Facilitators, First Responder Peer Support Team Members, Supervisors and Union Stewards/Employee Representatives receive updates on changes in the operation of this program.



Satya Rhodes-Conway
Mayor

APM 2-12
November 5, 2024

Original APM dated 4/21/1986

(Revised 3/1/1987, 9/1/1990, 3/1/1992, 8/15/1996, 6/5/1997, 2/22/2000, 4/11/2008, 10/12/2016, 5/24/2019)