

**BLACK FAMILY DEVELOPMENT**

**CODE**

**OF**

**ETHICS**

*BFDI is accredited by the "Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities"*  
[www.blackfamilydevelopment.org](http://www.blackfamilydevelopment.org)

Rev. 5/02, 8/02, 10/02, 7/03, 7/04, 8/05, 10/06, 8/07, 7/08, 3/09, 6/11

## **INTRODUCTION**

Black Family Development, Inc. (BFDI) is revising its present Code of Ethics handbook to include a more expansive array of ethical responsibilities that are standards for BFDI employees.

The expanded areas now include ethics that address:

- Business
- Marketing
- Contractual Relationships
- Service Delivery
- Professional Responsibilities
- Human Resources
- Prohibition of Waste, Fraud, Abuse, and other Wrongdoing
- Advocacy Efforts
- Corporate Citizenship
- Conflict of Interest

Included in this handbook are Code of Ethics, as well are the procedures for addressing and acting on violations of the Code of Ethics.

The areas addressed generally apply to all staff, as is appropriate.

### **INPUT PROCESS/REFERENCES**

The revised Code of Ethics was developed by input from the management team; the 2011 CARF Behavioral Health Standards Manual; the Council of Sages (*community members*); staff review; the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers and the National Association of Black Social Workers; the Center for Clinical Social Work; Clark Hill PLC 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Employment Law Conference; and current changes in the field, i.e. Michigan Department of Human Services, Department of Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare Licensing Rules.

# BLACK FAMILY DEVELOPMENT, INC. (BFDI)

## MISSION

The mission of BFDI is “To strengthen and enhance the lives of children, youth, and families through partnerships that support safe, nurturing, vibrant homes and communities”.

## GOAL

The goal is to promote wholesome family life and human growth via the development and implementation of a full range of social work services with a focus on African American families and other families experiencing a multiplicity of social problems.

## VISION

We are committed to:

- Improving the well-being of children
- Improving academic results
- Expanding positive youth development
- Improving support to families
- Building community capacity
- Achieving Promise Neighborhoods results

## VALUES AND PHILOSOPHY

BFDI’s home-based model of services flows from the principle that African American families and other families have **inherent strengths** that should be the focus of treatment plans. This embodies a **non-deficit approach** that requires counselors to build upon client/family strengths. BFDI’s **strength-based philosophy** is critical because it represents the organization’s **attitudes**, purposes, and thoughts about the **people we serve**. Every element of treatment, case management, prevention, and crisis intervention service flows from this philosophical principle. Here is where the organization’s service perspectives originate regarding services. It is very important when providing home based services to have a service perspective that says “families can be helped”, and BFDI is willing to provide the full gamut of comprehensive services to persons served to do whatever necessary to help them and their families. BFDI believes that there must be a feeling of **hope emanating** from each counselor that can be conveyed to the family. The counselor must be committed to looking at a variety of options to help families; to withstand disappointments; to be willing to try and try again with families, and to give support and praise for small accomplishments. BFDI’s philosophy is one that focuses on strengths and incorporates the principles of **person-centered planning** throughout each of the organization’s programs and services. These principles are imbedded in service documentation and in the counselor’s

treatment philosophy which encourages him/her to approach the family from a positive perspective. The philosophy says that persons served and their family/community benefit when the entire family is helped. That is, family focused services versus individual focused services are key. The philosophy also promotes service **accessibility** through **strong outreach** and the provision of an array of **culturally sensitive services**.

BFDI commits itself to work on behalf of African American families and other families, and encourages others to make an individual commitment and accept full responsibility for sensitizing themselves and colleagues to the needs and concerns relevant to African American families and other families.

BFDI uses a home-based model for the delivery of services. Some services may be provided in the offices or another community setting determined by the person served. However, our basic traditional approach is home-based. This model has been used since BFDI's inception in 1978, as it has proven most effective in providing services to African American families and other families. The home-based model increases accessibility to services and reduces barriers to services such as architectural barriers, transportation and child care.

BFDI supports the implementation of strategies that ensure children and their families receive services in the least restrictive manner that provides for the needs, wants, and desires of the child and family. BFDI believes in family preservation strategies that are designed to keep families together and children safe. Every effort should be made to support family and community life that is in the best interest of the child. BFDI believes that "families work".

BFDI supports the Child Welfare Philosophy of the Michigan Department of Human Services. That philosophy states:

- The first priority is to keep children safe.
- Children must have a voice in decision making that affects them.
- We must treat families with dignity and respect, and recognize and value their ethnic and cultural traditions.
- We must actively partner with communities to protect children and support families.
- The ideal place for children is in their own home with their own family.
- When we cannot ensure a child's safety in the family home, we must place siblings together whenever possible, and place them in the most family-like setting required to meet their unique needs.
- We must reunify children with their siblings and families as soon as safely possible.
- When we intervene on behalf of children, we must strive to leave children and families better off than if there had been no intervention.
- Services must be outcome-based, data driven, and continuously evaluated.

# CODE OF ETHICS

## Business Practices

- *Employees must have knowledge of the legal status of persons served.*
- *Employees shall, when applicable, provide information to persons served regarding resources related to legal status and help link consumers to these resources.*
- *Employees shall behave in a manner that demonstrates dignity and respect to persons served, staff members, visitors, volunteers, and other stakeholders.*
- *Employees must present and maintain a professional decorum with contract agents, their employees, or other associated or third party relations.*
- *Employees must be honest and forthright in their communication, and communication about, any relationship, including dating, with any BFDI employee; employee of a funder, collaborative partner, or provider; or other business associate working directly or indirectly with BFDI.*
- *Employees shall adhere to BFDI's accessibility policy in the areas of, but not limited to, architecture, environment, attitudes, finances, employment, communication, and transportation.*
- *Employees shall use language that is respectful and professional when communicating with persons served, employees, volunteers, and other stakeholders.*
- *Employees shall not engage in contracts or agreements with outside organizations/agencies on behalf of BFDI is prohibited.*
- *All material received from conferences is the property of BFDI and shall be stamped as BFDI property, and turned in upon termination from BFDI.*
- *Employees shall behave in a trustworthy manner with those whom they serve.*
- *Employees shall consult with their immediate supervisor and refer to the agency's policy when responding to subpoenas or other legal requests for agency and/or client records.*
- *Employees shall not engage in activities that fall into the category of fraud, waste, abuse, fiscal mismanagement, and/or misrepresentation of organizational funds or the funds of persons served.*
- *Employees shall not act as a witness to documents such as Power of Attorney,*

*guardianship, advance directives, and/or agency contracts without the expressed written approval of the CEO, COO, or CFO.*

- *Employees shall not intentionally or unintentionally mismanage the resources of the organization or other stakeholders or consumers.*

### **Marketing Practices**

- *Employees shall behave in a manner that demonstrates dignity and respect to persons served, staff members, visitors, volunteers, and other stakeholders.*
- *Employees shall give preference to the mission of the organization over any personal, business, or marketing interest.*
- *Employees should not take unfair advantage of any professional relationship or exploit others to further their personal, religious, political, or business interest.*
- *Employees shall adhere to BFDI's accessibility policy in the areas of, but not limited to, architecture, environment, attitudes, finances, employment, communication, and transportation.*
- *Employees shall not use BFDI's business practices, marketing strategies, or service delivery protocols for personal or professional gains outside of their specific employee role within BFDI.*
- *Employees shall use language that is respectful and professional when communicating with persons served, employees, volunteers, and other stakeholders.*
- *Employees shall not use any printed, audio, or visual aid materials belonging to BFDI for their personal or professional gain or benefit.*
- *Any misrepresentation of BFDI's mission, purpose, goals and objectives are prohibited.*
- *Employees may not represent or act as a spokesperson for BFDI unless previously authorized by the Chief Executive Officer or Board of Directors.*
- *Employees shall not intentionally or unintentionally mismanage the resources of the organization or other stakeholders or consumers.*

### **Contractual Relationships**

*The agency may contract with an individual or firm to perform specific tasks at an hourly rate or project cost. Individuals under contract are not considered employees of the agency, and proper credentials and proof of insurance, as appropriate, are required. The agency may request verification of licensure, certification or accreditation, and/or*

insurance coverage. Contractual agreements must be approved and signed by the Chief Executive Officer.

The relationship of a contractor to BFDI is that of an independent contractor and no benefits, whether fringe benefits or other types of benefits, will be provided as a result of the contractual agreement.

Employees of BFDI who may work with an independent contractor are encouraged to report any suspected abuse, neglect, waste, or wrongdoing by the independent contractor to their supervisor, another Manager, and/or the Corporate Compliance Committee.

See section of this manual entitled "Procedures for Investigating and Acting on Violations of the Code of Ethics".

### **Service Delivery**

- *Employees shall ensure that the organization's person-centered planning philosophy is evident in the service delivery process.*
- *Employees must ensure that all barriers to accessibility are assessed, addressed, and removed.*
- *Employees must have knowledge of the legal status of persons served.*
- *Employees shall, when applicable, provide information to persons served regarding resources related to legal status and help link consumers to these resources.*
- *Employees shall be alert to, and avoid, conflicts of interest that interfere with the exercise of professional discretion and impartial judgment.*
- *Employees should inform persons served when a real, or potential, conflict of interest arises, and take reasonable steps to resolve the issue in a manner that makes the persons' served interest primary and protects the persons' served interest to the greatest extent possible.*
- *Employees shall not accept money, exchange gifts, gratuities, or other consideration from anyone other than BFDI for the performance of any act which he/she would be required or expected to render in the regular course of his/her duties as a BFDI employee.*
- *Employees shall not engage in fundraising activities that are not sanctioned and approved by the CEO as permissible fundraising activities. Examples of fundraising activities that would not be under the domain of the organization may include: the selling of cookies, candy, tickets, or other items that are personal initiatives of an employee and/or his or her family member.*

- *Employees, as may be appropriate in their role, shall respect and safeguard the personal property of persons served, visitors, and all property of the organization.*
- *Employees shall not provide services to individuals with whom they have a personal, including dating, intimate, prior or current sexual relationship.*
- *Employees shall not act as a witness to documents such as Power of Attorney, guardianship, advance directives, and/or agency contracts without the expressed written approval of the CEO, COO, or CFO.*
- *Employees shall recognize and respect the inherent dignity and worth of the person and persons within the persons served care system.*
- *Employees' primary goals are to help people in need, address social problems, and support the well being of persons served.*
- *Employees shall challenge social injustice.*
- *Employees shall recognize the cultural, racial and ethnic importance of human relationships.*
- *Employees shall behave in a trustworthy manner with those whom they serve.*
- *Employees shall use language that is respectful and professional when communicating with persons served, employees, volunteers, and other stakeholders.*
- *Employees shall adhere to BFDI's accessibility policy in the areas of, but not limited to, architecture, environment, attitudes, finances, employment, communication, and transportation.*
- *Employees shall practice within their areas of competencies and develop and enhance their professional expertise.*
- *Employees shall maintain and update their professional licenses, credentials, certifications and clinical privileges.*
- *Employees shall respect and promote the rights of persons served to self-determination, and assist persons served in their efforts to identify and clarify their goals.*
- *Employees shall write legibly and use clear, specific and understandable language in the clinical documentation of persons' served case activities.*
- *Employees shall use clear and understandable language to inform persons*

*served of the purpose of services, and risks related to services.*

- *Employees shall use clear and understandable language to inform persons of limits to services, because of the requirements of a third party payer.*
- *Employees shall provide persons served with reasonable access to their records.*
- *Employees shall not use derogatory language in their written or verbal communication to, or about, persons served.*
- *Employees shall practice within their areas of competencies and develop and enhance their professional expertise.*
- *Employees shall use accurate and respectful communication to, and about, persons served.*
- *Employees should make reasonable efforts to ensure continuity of services in the event that services are interrupted by factors such as unavailability, relocation, illness, disability, or death.*
- *Employees are prohibited from having clients sign blank forms.*
- *Staff shall not discuss client's case information without provisions for relative confidentiality.*
- *Staff shall not leave persons' served case record information on desks, or in any other unsecured manner, thus violating persons' served confidentiality.*
- *Employees shall not intentionally or unintentionally mismanage the resources of the organization or other stakeholders.*

### **Professional Responsibilities**

- *Employees shall behave in a manner that demonstrates dignity and respect to persons served, staff members, visitors, volunteers, and other stakeholders.*
- *Employees shall behave in a trustworthy manner with all stakeholders, including but not limited to, persons served, supervisors, co-workers, volunteers, visitors, and funders.*
- *Employees shall not engage in verbal/sexual harassment, physical abuse or neglect of persons served or persons within the person's served care system.*
- *Employees shall use language that is respectful, professional, when communicating with persons served, employees, volunteers, and other stakeholders.*

- *Employees shall not falsify agency records, persons' served records, and/or other documents associated with their employment with BFDI.*
- *Employees shall adhere to BFDI's accessibility policy in the areas of, but not limited to, architecture, environment, attitudes, finances, employment, communication, and transportation.*
- *Employees shall not divulge confidential material or information to unauthorized persons.*
- *Employees shall protect the confidentiality of persons' served written, verbal and electronic records and other sensitive information.*
- *Employees shall ensure that persons' served records are stored in a secure location and that persons' served records are not available to others who are not authorized to have access.*
- *Employees must be courteous, respectful, and truthful to supervisors, visitors, volunteers, co-workers, persons served, referring workers/agencies, and any and all other persons associated directly, or indirectly with BFDI.*
- *Employees shall provide services to persons served only in the context of a professional relationship based upon valid and informed consent.*
- *Employees shall not provide services to individuals with whom they have a personal, intimate, including dating, prior or current sexual relationship.*
- *Employees should make reasonable efforts to ensure continuity of services in the event that services are interrupted by factors such as unavailability, relocation, illness, disability, or death.*
- *Employees shall adopt the concept of extended families, kinship care and fictive kin.*
- *Employees shall accept the responsibility to advocate for persons served and protect the community in which our persons serve live against unethical and hypocritical practices by individuals or organizations engaged in social welfare activities.*
- *Employees shall not intentionally or unintentionally mismanage the resources of the organization or other stakeholders.*
- *Employees shall not engage in personal fundraising with consumers or solicit funds from consumers on behalf of a personal cause such as: selling cookies, candy, tickets, etc., and shall not have consumers selling personal items on behalf of themselves or on behalf of the organization.*

- *Employees, as may be appropriate in their role, shall respect and safeguard the personal property of persons served, visitors, and all property of the organization.*
- *Employees shall not use the organization's property for personal use. (See Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual for greater detail under "Use of Agency Property").*

**Human Resources**

*BFDI maintains an at-will employment status. This section in the Code of Ethics under "Human Resources" is not intended to define the organization's comprehensive "Personnel Policies and Procedures" manual. Please refer to the organization's "Personnel Policies and Procedures" manual for more detailed information regarding human resources issues.*

- *Degree professional employees must practice within the legal constraints of their state license(s) and adhere to the ethics codes of their profession.*
- *Employees shall act in a manner that promotes and preserves the professional social work values and the practice standards of clinical social work.*
- *Employees shall make clear their role when speaking or acting as a private individual rather than as a professional or as a representative of a professional organization.*
- *When more than one employee is involved in the care of a person served, employees seek to coordinate treatment. They are obligated to address any collaborative issues that are not in the best interest of the person served.*

**A. Personal Behavior**

- *Employees shall behave in a manner that demonstrates dignity and respect to persons served, staff members, visitors, volunteers, and other stakeholders.*
- *Employees shall be honest and truthful in their documentation, reporting, communicating with their supervisor, coworker, or other management staff within the organization.*

*Employees shall use language that is respectful and professional when communicating with persons served, employees, volunteers, and other stakeholders.*

- *Employees shall adhere to BFDI's accessibility policy in the areas of, but not*

*limited to, architecture, environment, attitudes, finances, employment, communication, and transportation.*

- *Sleeping on the job is prohibited.*
- *The use of any controlled substances while on the job, coming to the job, or while doing any related work activities, is strictly prohibited.*
- *Engaging in the sale, transfer, or use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs, or the abuse of over-the-counter medication, while on duty or on BFDI's premises, or in any associated activity related directly or indirectly to BFDI is strictly prohibited.*
- *Employees must maintain an acceptable self-appearance. Dress should be in accordance with the job and the dictates of the occasion.*
- *Employees shall not engage in verbal/sexual harassment, physical abuse or neglect of persons served, or persons within the person's served care system.*
- *Employees shall not use nor abuse the personal property of the agency, including telephones, computers, cell phones, copier machines, or any other equipment or property of BFDI for non BFDI-related activities.*
- *Employees are expected to perform his/her tasks on time, especially those that are a part of his/her job description.*
- *Employees shall not intentionally or unintentionally mismanage the resources of the organization or other stakeholders.*

**B. Mandated Reporter's Requirements**

*BFDI's Code of Ethics requires a strict adherence to the Michigan Child Protection Law as it relates to the reporting of child abuse and neglect. The Michigan Child Protection Law, 1975, PA 238, requires the reporting of child abuse and neglect by certain persons (called mandated reporters) and permits the reporting of child abuse and neglect by all persons.*

*The law requires that mandated reporters report suspected child abuse and neglect to the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS). The report must be made directly to DHS. There are civil and criminal penalties for a mandated reporter's failure to make a report. Likewise, there is civil and criminal immunity for someone making a report in good faith.*

*A list of mandated reporters is as follows:*

*A physician, dentist, physician's assistant, registered dental hygienist, medical examiner, nurse, person licensed to provide emergency medical care, audiologist, psychologist, **marriage and family therapist, licensed***

**professional counselor, social worker, licensed master's social worker, licensed bachelor's social worker, registered social service technician, social service technician, school administrator, school counselor, or teacher, law enforcement officer, member of the clergy, or regulated child care provider.**

*The Child Protection Law requires mandated reporters to make an immediate verbal report to DHS upon suspecting child abuse and neglect, followed by a written report within 72 hours. Reporting the suspected allegations of child abuse and neglect to the agency administrator does not fulfill the mandated reporting requirement to report directly to DHS.*

*An individual required to report suspected child abuse and neglect shall make immediately, by telephone or otherwise, an oral report. Again, the mandated reporter shall, within 72 hours of the oral report, file a written report.*

*Mandated reporters cannot be dismissed or otherwise penalized for making a report required by the Child Protection Law or for cooperating in an investigation.*

*Strict confidentiality laws at both the state and federal level govern Child Protective Services investigations.*

*Please refer to BFDI's policy on Abuse and Neglect in BFDI's CARF Policy Manual.*

### **Prohibition of Waste, Fraud, Abuse, and other Wrongdoing**

It is the policy of Black Family Development, Inc. (BFDI) that employees, volunteers, or other stakeholders may not participate in fraud, abuse, waste of resources or other wrongdoing, whether illegal or unethical. Employees are encouraged to report any suspicion or evidence in the aforementioned areas to their immediate supervisor, Human Resources Director, or Corporate Compliance Officer. BFDI shall uphold a "no reprisal" concept for employees and volunteers in reporting suspected incidents of questionable activities and practices.

### **Procedures to Deal with Allegations of Violations of Ethical Codes**

*BFDI's Corporate Compliance Committee is comprised minimally of the Corporate Compliance Officer and the Human Resources Manager. The committee is chaired by the Corporate Compliance Officer. This committee will receive all Incident Reports containing violations of the Code of Ethics. The committee will receive the report, conduct the investigation, record the investigation, and provide feedback and follow up, as may be appropriate.*

*BFDI shall uphold a "no reprisal" concept for employees and volunteers in reporting suspected incidents of questionable activities and practices within the organization. A "no reprisal" system simply means that employees shall not be subject to any retaliation, penalties, discrimination, confrontation, or any other type of consequences*

for making a report.

A. **Reporting**

*Any staff member may report a violation of the Code of Ethics by completing an Unusual Incident Report and submitting the form to their supervisor and provide a copy to the Corporate Compliance Committee. Staff are encouraged to report the incident within 10 working days. Reports will still be accepted if they are submitted more than 10 working days after the occurrence.*

B. **Investigation**

*The Corporate Compliance Committee, in consultation with the respective Supervisor and all other parties involved, will investigate the report within five (5) business days of receiving the report, and complete the investigation with a final report completed within 15 days.*

C. **Acting on Violation**

*If there is sufficient evidence, as determined by the investigation, a report and recommendation will be submitted to the CEO by the Corporate Compliance Committee. The CEO will facilitate and approve the recommendations of the committee, which may include, but not limited to: a number of corrective action strategies, including training, supervision, and/or disciplinary action.*

D. **Documenting the Investigation**

*The Corporate Compliance Committee will maintain a log of all Code of Ethics investigations and report same to the CEO on an annual basis. In addition to maintaining a log, the committee will use the following process:*

- Create a separate file for the investigation.
- The investigation file should include:
  - The complaint
  - The Report of Investigation

*The CEO will report to the Board on an annual basis an analysis on Code of Ethics violations and/or trends and patterns.*

**Monitoring**

*The Corporate Compliance Committee shall ensure that the Code of Ethics is clearly communicated to staff on an ongoing basis. The methods of communication will be as follows:*

- *Each new hire, whether full-time, part-time, or contractual, will receive a copy of the Code of Ethics on their first day of employment.*
- *Each new hire will sign off acknowledging receipt and understanding of BFDI's Code of Ethics.*
- *The Code of Ethics will be shared with staff at the agency new staff orientation training.*
- *The Compliance Officer will monitor trends, patterns, and code violations and recommend to the CEO additional training or supervision strategies to reinforce compliance with the Code of Ethics.*

### **Education on Ethical Codes of Conduct for Personnel and Other Stakeholders**

*BFDI continues to support training and education for staff to remain in compliance and current in their respective field in order to demonstrate strategies and interventions that are based on accepted practices and current research, evidence-based practice, peer-reviewed scientific and health-related publications, clinical practice guidelines, and/or expert professional consensus.*

*Leadership supports and sponsors online access to learning opportunities and reference materials through webinars for staff and stakeholders/collaborative partners; agency subscribes to magazine and subscriptions related to relevant fields; agency collaborates with other organizations/schools for in-service workshops and community meetings; and agency supports time off and financial assistance for staff to attend conferences.*

*The Corporate Compliance Officer remains current on policies and practices in the field via online training documents and printed publications/books.*

### **Advocacy**

*BFDI continues to advocate for persons served, personnel, and other community stakeholders. BFDI's advocacy efforts include partnering with other organizations and the general community to provide training and education that will reduce the stigma associated with the needs, challenges, diagnoses, and disabilities of our consumers. BFDI's advocacy efforts also include providing oral testimony, and developing and submitting position statements that support the needs of consumers and/or the needs for policy revisions at the local, state, and federal levels. BFDI works in collaboration with other organizations to coordinate our advocacy efforts on behalf of not only persons served, but BFDI's general geographic service area as well.*

*BFDI will continue to demonstrate a commitment and value for advocacy services on behalf of persons served through a number of venues, including the recipient rights process, corporate responsibility strategies, and as a part of ongoing service delivery.*

*The continuum of advocacy services will include from time to time, based upon the changing needs of our consumers and the community, the following:*

- *Linking consumers to local advocacy groups, agencies, and organizations*
- *Personal Advocacy: One-on-one advocacy to secure the rights of the persons served.*
- *Systems Advocacy: Seeking to change a policy or practice that affects the person served.*
- *Legislative Advocacy as permitted by law: Seeking legislative enactments that would enhance the rights of and/or opportunities for the person served.*
- *Legal Advocacy: Using the judicial and quasi-judicial systems to protect the rights of the person served.*
- *Self-Advocacy: Enabling the person served to advocate on his/her own behalf.*

### **Corporate Citizenship**

*BFDI encourages corporate responsibility at all levels of the organization. Corporate responsibility demonstrates what an organization stands for including its ethical, social, and environmental values. Corporate responsibility assists in: advocating for the persons served; promoting ethical business practices; developing efficiency as an organization; and considering the impact of organizational activities on persons served, personnel, other stakeholders, and the environment.*

*The participation of staff in corporate responsibility activities requires communicating with the CEO and receiving approval from the CEO for corporate responsibility activities that must be conducted during the course of the regular work day.*

*BFDI has expanded its corporate responsibility statement, as more of its staff are volunteering to support the needs and activities of our consumers during after-work hours. Also, more of BFDI's leadership is serving on community Boards, Commissions, Ad-Hoc Committees, and Task Force Groups at the federal, state and local levels. BFDI supports the involvement of staff in corporate responsibility activities as a way to not only advance the mission, philosophy, values and goals of the organization, but to advocate for the needs, wants, and desires of its consumers and the community.*

*BFDI's corporate responsibility is also evident through our funding of and consultation with grass-roots or community-based organizations, and governmental, public and private organizations. BFDI provides training, consultation, and/or mentoring to organizations who may experience challenges in aspiring to excellence in their business practices and/or services to persons served.*

*The leadership of BFDI is serving in gubernatorial and mayoral appointed positions and other local advocacy and network groups to improve funding, policies, and services to the most at-risk and disenfranchised groups/families in our community.*

## **Potential Conflict of Interest**

- *Employees shall be alert to, and avoid, conflicts of interest that interfere with the exercise of professional discretion and impartial judgment.*
- *Employees shall not engage in fundraising activities that are not sanctioned and approved by the CEO as permissible fundraising activities. Examples of fundraising activities that would not be under the domain of the organization may include: the selling of cookies, candy, tickets, or other items that are personal initiatives of an employee and/or his or her family member.*
- *Employees should inform persons served when a real, or potential, conflict of interest arises, and take reasonable steps to resolve the issue in a manner that makes the persons' served interest primary and protects the persons' served interest to the greatest extent possible.*
- *Employees should not directly or indirectly engage in any employment activity or enterprise which is inconsistent, incompatible, or in conflict with his/her duties as a BFDI employee, or with the duties, functions and responsibilities of the program in which he/she is employed. The policy is not meant to restrict or infringe upon the activities of the employee or his/her family, but is intended to protect the agency from instances where the achievement of its goals is impeded by the intentional or unintentional acts of its employees.*

*The following are considered to be incompatible types of activities:*

1. *Any unauthorized employment, activity, or enterprise involving the use for private gain or advantage, the agency's time, facilities, equipment, supplies, clients, other employees, mediated materials in which the agency has proprietary interest, or the prestige of the agency or the influence of the office or position held by the employees. The examples indicated are forms of conflict of interests but are not meant to be an exhaustive list:*
  - *The directed referral (i.e., "steering") of agency applicants, clients, and their families to any private practices in which employees or agency consultants may be engaged.*
  - *The conducting of a private practice or some other enterprise on agency facilities, utilizing agency materials, supplies, equipment, personnel, or clients.*
  - *The use for personal gain or advantage by employees or agency consultants of agency computer software curriculums, audio-visuals, graphics, or any other kind of written materials such as instructional methods, treatment methods, research instruments which have been developed by the agency, or employees or consultants, either during working hours or with agency facilities,*

*equipment, materials, personnel, clients and client families.*

*This policy is not meant to and does not preclude outside employment or activities which are, in effect, “joint ventures” between the employee and another agency. Outside employment and “joint ventures” must be reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer to determine that a conflict of interest does not exist.*

- 2. The receipt by the employee of any money, exchange of gifts, gratuities, or other consideration from anyone other than BFDI for the performance of any act which he/she would be required or expected to render in the regular course of his/her duties as a BFDI employee.*
- 3. Activity that involves so much of the employee’s time that it impairs his/her attendance, effectiveness, or efficiency in the performance of his/her duties. This does not prohibit the employee from holding other employment that has been discussed by the Chief Executive Officer, so long as those hours do not overlap or coincide with his/her required time as set forth by the agency and so long as his/her work performance is not affected by the outside employment. If he/she wishes to work on a second job or equivalent, such as a private or consulting practice, he/she must give details of this to his/her supervisor and work out any conflicts through the Chief Executive Officer before accepting such employment or engaging in the enterprise.*
- 4. Full-time employment at another agency or organization that is in direct conflict with full-time employment at BFDI and is not permitted.*

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**Black Family Development, Inc.  
Code of Ethics**

**Verification Page**

***My signature indicates receipt of and understanding of Black Family Development, Inc.'s Code of Ethics handbook.***

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***Signature***

***Date***

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***Print Name***