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North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, LLC
Section 4000 - Information Systems: Workstation/Laptop Acceptable Use

Authorizing Source: HCA Contract

Approved by: Executive Director

Date: 11/12/2024

Signature:

POLICY #4013.00

SUBJECT: WORKSTATION / LAPTOP ACCEPTABLE USE

OVERVIEW

The IT Department is committed to protecting North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization's (North Sound BH-ASO) employees, partners and the company from illegal or damaging actions by individuals, either knowingly or unknowingly.

Internet/Intranet/Extranet-related systems, including but not limited to computer equipment, software, Operating Systems, storage media, network accounts providing electronic mail, web browsing, and (S)FTP, are the property of North Sound BH-ASO. These systems are to be used for business purposes in serving the interests of North Sound BH-ASO, and of our clients in the course of normal operations.

Effective security is a team effort involving the participation and support of every North Sound BH-ASO employee, affiliate or subcontractor who deals with information and/or Information Systems. It is the responsibility of every computer user to know these guidelines, and to conduct their activities accordingly.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the acceptable use of computer equipment at North Sound BH-ASO. These rules are in place to protect the employee and North Sound BH-ASO. Inappropriate use exposes North Sound BH-ASO to risks including virus attacks, compromise of network systems and services, and legal issues.

SCOPE

This policy applies to North Sound BH-ASO employees, contractors, temporaries, and other workers at North Sound BH-ASO, who have been granted logon rights to the North Sound BH-ASO internal network. This policy applies to all equipment that is owned or leased by North Sound BH-ASO.

POLICY

General Use and Ownership

1. While North Sound BH-ASO's network administration desires to provide a reasonable level of privacy, users should be aware that the data they create on the corporate systems remains the property of North Sound BH-ASO. Because of the need to protect North Sound BH-ASO's network, management cannot guarantee the confidentiality of personal employee information stored on any network device belonging to North Sound BH-ASO.
2. Employees are responsible for exercising good judgment regarding the reasonableness of personal use. If there is any uncertainty, employees should consult their supervisor or manager.
3. The IT Department requires that any information that the organization considers sensitive or vulnerable be encrypted All North Sound BH-ASO issued laptops, desktops, external USB hard drives, flash drives and iPhones must use Whole Disk Encryption (WDE) using NIST compliant encryption in compliance with North Sound BH-ASO's Security Policies. Encrypted removable drives are available on request to support business needs.

4. As outlined in North Sound BH-ASO security policies. For additional information regarding encryption security please consult the HIPAA Security Officer
5. For security and network maintenance purposes, authorized individuals within North Sound BH-ASO may monitor equipment, systems and network traffic at any time.
6. North Sound BH-ASO reserves the right to audit networks and systems on a periodic basis to ensure compliance with this policy.

Security and Proprietary Information

1. The user interface for information contained on Internet/Intranet/Extranet-related systems should be classified as either confidential or not confidential, as defined by the North Sound BH-ASO Document Management Policy, whether the information is Protected Health Information, or other information, which is privileged. Employees should take all necessary steps to prevent unauthorized access to this information.
2. Guest access granted to individuals accessing internal network resources for business operational support reasons, such as contractors or temp employees, must be pre vetted by HR, signed the non-disclosure agreement, have a BAA in place if necessary, and be closely monitored
3. Keep passwords secure and do not share accounts. Authorized users are responsible for the security of their own passwords and accounts.
4. All PCs, laptops and workstations are configured with a password-protected screensaver with the automatic activation feature set at 10 minutes to lock the workstation. Users are required to log off or lock the workstation when it will be unattended.
5. Postings by employees from a North Sound BH-ASO email address to newsgroups should contain a disclaimer stating that the opinions expressed are strictly their own and not necessarily those of North Sound BH-ASO, unless posting is in the course of business duties.
6. All workstations or laptops used by the employee that are connected to the North Sound BH-ASO Internet/Intranet/Extranet, shall be continually executing approved virus-scanning software with a current virus definitions database.
7. Employees must use extreme caution when clicking on links in email messages or opening e-mail attachments received from unknown senders, which may contain viruses, e-mail bombs, Trojan horse code, or ransomware. To help prevent Phishing attacks, all unexpected secure emails, even from known senders, should be treated as malicious until proven friendly by alternate means such as an offline phone call. If unsure, please consult the HIPAA security Officer. North Sound BH-ASO IT may occasionally phish tests staff for training purposes.

Unacceptable Use

The following activities are, in general, prohibited. Employees may be exempted from these restrictions during their legitimate job responsibilities (e.g., IT staff may have a need to disable the network access of a host if that host is disrupting production services).

Under no circumstances is an employee of North Sound BH-ASO authorized to engage in any activity that is illegal under local, state, federal or international law while utilizing North Sound BH-ASO owned resources.

The lists below are by no means exhaustive, but attempt to provide a framework for activities, which fall into the category of unacceptable use.

System and Network Activities

The following activities are strictly prohibited:

1. Violations of the rights of any person or company protected by copyright, trade secret, patent or other intellectual property, or similar laws or regulations, including, but not limited to, the installation or

distribution of “pirated” or other software products that are not appropriately licensed for use by North Sound BH-ASO.

2. Unauthorized copying of copyrighted material including, but not limited to, digitization and distribution of photographs from magazines, books or other copyrighted sources, copyrighted music, and the installation of any copyrighted software for which North Sound BH-ASO does not have an active license is strictly prohibited.
3. Exporting software, technical information, encryption software or technology, in violation of international or regional export control laws, is illegal. The Security Officer and / or the IT Department should be consulted prior to export of any material that is in question.
4. Introduction of malicious programs into the network or server (e.g., viruses, worms, Trojan horses, e-mail bombs, etc.).
5. Revealing your account password to others or allowing use of your account by others. This includes family and other household members when work is being done at home.
 - a. The only exception to this is when IT Department staff needs to temporarily elevate user privileges for the purpose of installing profile-specific software.
 - b. This exception is only specific to the use of your account by another. You shall never reveal your account password. IT Department staff will temporarily reset your password and, when work is complete, will reset your password so that you may maintain password secrecy.
6. Using a North Sound BH-ASO computing asset to actively engage in procuring or transmitting material that is in violation of sexual harassment or hostile workplace laws in the user’s local jurisdiction.
7. Making fraudulent offers of products, items, or services originating from any North Sound BH-ASO account.
8. Making statements about warranty, expressly or implied, unless it is a part of normal job duties.
9. Effecting security breaches or disruptions of network communication. Security breaches include, but are not limited to, accessing data of which the employee is not an intended recipient or logging into a server or account that the employee is not expressly authorized to access, unless these duties are within the scope of regular duties. For purposes of this section, “disruption” includes, but is not limited to, network sniffing, pinged floods, packet spoofing, denial of service, and forged routing information for malicious purposes.
10. Port or security scanning is expressly prohibited except as those processes specifically identified in North Sound BH-ASO Policies, and you have been directly authorized to do so.
11. Executing any form of network monitoring which will intercept data not intended for the employee’s host, unless this activity is a part of the employee’s normal job duties.
12. Circumventing user authentication or security of any host, network or account.
13. Interfering with or denying service to any user other than the employee’s host (for example, denial of service attack).
14. Using any program/script/command, or sending messages of any kind, with the intent to interfere with, or disable, a user’s terminal session, via any means, locally or via the Internet/Intranet/Extranet.
15. Connecting any non-North Sound BH-ASO peripherals (keyboards, printers, modems, etc.) without prior authorization from the IT Manager or Security Officer.
16. Saving data to or transporting data on unauthorized, unencrypted USB hard/flash drives, optical (CD/DVD) disks, memory cards, or any other portable storage media without prior authorization.

Email and Communications Activities

1. Sending unsolicited email messages, including the sending of “junk mail” or other advertising material to individuals who did not specifically request such material (email spam).

2. Any form of harassment via email, telephone, texting or paging, whether through language, frequency, or size of messages.
3. Unauthorized use, or forging, of email header information.
4. Solicitation of email for any other email address, other than that of the poster's account, with the intent to harass or to collect replies.
5. Creating or forwarding "chain letters", "Ponzi" or other "pyramid" schemes of any type.
6. Posting the same or similar non-business-related messages to social media platforms (newsgroup spam).

PORTABLE COMPUTER

Employees, contractors, and others using portable computers (users) must read, understand, and comply with this policy.

Any portable equipment requested must be logged in the IT Hardware Inventory Database. The hardware, software, all related components, and data are the property of North Sound BH-ASO and must be safeguarded and be returned upon request and upon termination of your employment. You are responsible for the equipment North Sound BH-ASO issue's you during your employment.

The user agrees to use the equipment solely for North Sound BH-ASO business purposes. The user further understands:

1. Dial-up or any remote access networking functions are only to be established by the IT Department and configuration settings must not be altered by the user. User is not permitted to dial into or connect to any other unauthorized services, Internet service providers, or any other Internet access or to use the dial-up capabilities in any other manner than as instructed. The user understands that the hardware has been disabled from performing any functions other than those intended for business use and that the user may not attempt to enable such other functions.
2. Computers, associated equipment, and software are for business use only, not for the personal use of the user or any other person or entity.
3. Users will not download any software onto the computer except as loaded by authorized staff of the IT Department.
4. Users must use only batteries and power cables provided by North Sound BH-ASO and may not, for example, use their car's adapter power sources.
5. Users will not connect any non-North Sound BH-ASO peripherals (keyboards, printers, modems, etc.).
6. Users are responsible for securing the unit, all associated equipment, and all data, within their homes, cars, and other locations while checked out to the user.
7. Users may not leave mobile computer units unattended unless they are in a secured location.
8. Users should not leave mobile computer units in cars or car trunks for an extended period in extreme weather (heat or cold) or leave them exposed to direct sunlight.
9. Users must securely place portable computers and associated equipment in their proper carrying cases when transporting them.
10. Users must not alter the serial numbers and asset numbers of the equipment in any way.
11. Users will not permit anyone else to use any North Sound issued device for any purpose, including, but not limited to, the user's family and/or associates, clients, client families, or unauthorized officers, employees, and agents of North Sound BH-ASO.
12. Users must not share their passwords with any other person and must safeguard their passwords and may not write them down so that an unauthorized person can obtain them. (See the Access Code and Password Policy).
13. Users must report any breach of password security immediately to the Security Officer, who in turn will notify the Privacy Officer.

14. Users must maintain confidentiality when using the computers. The screen must be protected from viewing by unauthorized personnel when confidential information is displayed, and users must properly log out and turn off the computer when it is not in use.
15. Users must immediately report any lost, damaged, malfunctioning, or stolen equipment or any breach of security or confidentiality to the IT department, who in turn will notify the Privacy and Security Officers.
16. The most recent security patches must be installed on user issued laptop and desktop systems as soon as is practical, the only exception being when immediate application would interfere with business requirements. Critical security patches must be installed on laptops and desktops, preferably the day it is released. When that is not possible, critical patches should be installed within 72 hours of release.

Enforcement

All managers are responsible for enforcing this procedure. Employees who violate this procedure are subject to discipline up to and including termination from employment in accordance with North Sound BH-ASO's Employee Conduct and Discipline policy.

ATTACHMENTS

None