

Mental Health Services

712.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all inmates have access to mental health services and that inmates identified as needing these services are referred appropriately.

712.1.1 DEFINITION

Definitions related to this policy include:

Mental health services - A variety of psycho-social and pharmacological therapies, either individual or group, including biological, psychological and social therapies to alleviate symptoms, attain appropriate functioning and prevent relapse.

712.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this agency that a range of mental health services shall be available for any inmate who requires them (Wis. Admin. Code DOC § 350.14).

712.2.1 REPORTING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The Jail Commander shall provide to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, by January 30th each year, the following information from the previous calendar year (Wis. Stat. § 302.383):

- (a) The number of inmates from the facility who were transferred to a state treatment facility and the number who were transferred to a county treatment facility under each of the following:
 - 1. A commitment under Wis. Stat. § 51.20(1)(a)
 - 2. A voluntary transfer under Wis. Stat. § 51.37(5)
 - 3. An emergency transfer under Wis. Stat. § 51.37(5)
- (b) The length of stay in the state or county treatment facility
- (c) The description of the mental health services that are available to inmates on either a voluntary or involuntary basis

712.3 BASIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Inmates may be referred to a qualified health care professional through a variety of methods, which include the medical screening process, the mental health appraisal process and self-referral or staff referral. Qualified health care professionals should respond to all referrals in a timely manner and initiate the appropriate treatment services.

- (a) If the inmate has received previous mental health treatment, the inmate should be asked to complete a release of information form so his/her treatment records can be obtained.
- (b) Inmates who have been determined to be in need of ongoing mental health services after their release from this facility should be provided with information about community mental health treatment resources. Arrangements for more comprehensive mental health care may be made, if appropriate.

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- (c) Inmates who are identified as being developmentally disabled should be evaluated for special housing needs. The qualified health care professional should work in cooperation with classification personnel to establish the best reasonably available housing option.
- (d) Inmates who are suspected or known to be developmentally disabled should receive a mental health appraisal by the qualified health care professional as soon as reasonably practicable but no later than 24 hours after booking. Inmates who are developmentally disabled should be referred, where appropriate and available, for placement in non-correctional facilities or in units specifically designated for housing the developmentally disabled.
- (e) Inmates enrolled in mental health treatment, including psychiatric medication management, should be provided information regarding the risks and benefits to treatment. Informed consent documents should be signed by the inmate to establish his/her consent to treatment. The signed forms should be placed in the inmate's health record and retained in accordance with established records retention schedules.
- (f) A treatment plan should be established for all inmates enrolled in mental health services.
- (g) The qualified health care professional should utilize a site-specific suicide prevention program to ensure the safety of inmates who present with a risk of self-harm.
 - 1. Qualified health care professionals should be assigned to daily rounds in the segregation unit to determine the mental health status of inmates housed there.
 - 2. Segregated inmates may be referred by the jail staff to qualified health care professionals for follow-up if concerns arise regarding their ability to function in disciplinary detention.
- (h) If the qualified health care professional has concerns about the level of mental health services that are required to manage an inmate housed in the facility, the health authority shall be notified.

Inmates determined to be in need of substance abuse treatment services should be informed of the facility programs available and shall be provided information about community substance abuse treatment resources.