

Behavioral Health Services and Transfer to a Treatment Facility

1004.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose is to establish and implement written policy and procedures to provide behavioral health services and for the transfer of youth to a treatment facility. This policy applies to all juvenile facility staff and field deputies assigned to transport in-custody youth.

1004.2 AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

- Board of State and Community Corrections Title 15 § 1437;
- California Penal Code §§ 4011.6 and 4011.8;
- Juvenile Facility Services Policy; Psychotropic Medications;
- Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 5000, 5150, and 6552.

1004.3 POLICY

Riverside University Health System-Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH) provides behavioral health services in all Riverside County juvenile facilities. All youth within the juvenile facilities shall be provided behavioral health services. Behavioral health referrals shall be made for youth who display significant symptoms of severe depression, suicidal ideation, irrational, violent or self-destructive behaviors, and/or who are receiving psychotropic medication. Following a traumatic incident, it is important to make referrals for behavioral health services for youth and to provide contact information for Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for staff.

1004.4 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REFERRAL

Juvenile facility staff shall complete and submit a referral for behavioral health services when behavior described in the above policy statement is observed. Youth may request these services by filling out a behavioral health request form and placing it in the health care request box located on each living unit. Court-ordered behavioral health referrals for youth shall be completed and submitted by staff. Staff shall document the submission of behavioral health referrals in the client management system by entering a detention contact.

1004.5 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Provisions shall be made for the continuation of psychotropic medications and therapeutic services prescribed in the community prior to admission or transfer to any Riverside County juvenile facility. Refer to Juvenile Facility Services Policy: Psychotropic Medications.

Behavioral health services shall include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Screening for behavioral health (a) problems at intake performed by either behavioral/medical health personnel or trained youth supervision staff; history of recent exposure

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to trauma which may require immediate attention (including physical and sexual abuse, sexual assault, neglect, violence in the home, traumatic loss), current traumatic stress symptoms, and pregnancy needs;

- (b) Evaluation by a behavioral health provider when indicated by the screening process;
- (c) Therapeutic services and preventative services where resources permit;
- (d) Crisis intervention and the management of acute psychiatric episodes;
- (e) Stabilization of youth with mental disorders and reasonable effort to prevent psychiatric deterioration in the facility setting;
- (f) Initial and periodic medication support services;
- (g) Assurance that any youth who displays significant symptoms of severe depression, suicidal ideation, irrational, violent or self-destructive behaviors shall be provided a behavioral health status assessment by a licensed behavioral health clinician, psychologist, or psychiatrist; and,
- (h) Transition planning for youth undergoing behavioral health treatment, including arrangements for continuation of medication and services from behavioral health providers, including providers in the community where appropriate.

Absent an emergency, unless the juvenile facility has been designated as a Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) facility and youth meet the criteria for involuntary commitment under the LPS Act in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5000 et seq., all services shall be provided on a voluntary basis. Voluntary mental health admissions may be sought pursuant to California Penal Code Section 4011.8 or Welfare and Institutions Code Section 6552.

1004.6 TRANSFER TO A TREATMENT FACILITY

Youth who appear to be a danger to themselves or others or to be gravely disabled, shall be evaluated either pursuant to applicable statute or by on-site licensed health personnel to determine if treatment can be initiated at the juvenile facility.

Referral, transportation, and admission to a licensed mental health facility shall be completed in a timely manner and follow-up for youth whose psychiatric needs exceed the treatment capability of the facility shall be completed.

1004.7 POST-TRAUMATIC COUNSELING

When there has been a traumatic incident, both staff and youth may experience post-traumatic feelings of depression, anger, fear, anxiety, guilt, etc. As soon as possible, referrals shall be made for behavioral health services for youth. Referrals may be made to EAP for staff experiencing traumatic feelings.

When there has been a death of an individual within the juvenile facility, post-trauma counseling shall be available through behavioral health services for youth and EAP for staff. A representative from behavioral health services can also be included in the notification team of the next of kin. Referrals for the staff and youth involved shall be made as soon as possible following the incident.

Riverside County Probation Department

Policy Manual

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Date last reviewed: 10/20/2021

Date(s) revised: 10/20/2021; 09/19/2019; and, 05/05/2016

Created: 03/01/2000

Attachment(s): None