

Effective Date: 12/23/2016; 9/30/2014; 3/1/2012  
Revised Date: 6/12/2017  
Review Date: 6/12/2017

## **North Sound Behavioral Health Organization**

### **Section 1700 – Crisis Services – ICRS/Law Enforcement Coordination**

Authorizing Source: North Sound BHO

Cancels:

See Also:

Providers must comply with this policy and may develop individualized implementation guidelines as needed

Responsible Staff: Deputy Director

Approved by: Executive Director

Signature:

Date: 7/17/2017

## **POLICY #1724.00**

### **SUBJECT: ICRS/LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION**

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure Volunteers of America (VOA) Care Crisis Response Services (CCRS), Crisis Prevention and Intervention Teams (CPIT), Designated Mental Health Professionals (DMHPs) and Stabilization/Triage facilities are working in a coordinated effort with law enforcement when there is a behavioral health crisis.

#### **POLICY**

North Sound Behavioral Health Organization (North Sound BHO) is committed to strengthening partnerships with law enforcement agencies in the Region to improve the coordination of services for individuals in behavioral health crisis. Law enforcement agencies are often the first responders on the scene when individuals and families are in crisis. To assist them when decisions are needed regarding crisis intervention, law enforcement officers may need to consult with the North Sound BHO Integrated Crisis Response System (ICRS) providers to determine the most appropriate course of action.

#### **PROCEDURES**

- I. CCRS: Law enforcement officers, who request ICRS assistance, should contact CCRS at 800-584-3578 and alert them to the nature of the crisis. CCRS clinicians will triage the case with law enforcement officers to determine the next steps. This may include consultation with CCRS, consultation with CPIT, DMHPs, identifying linkage to appropriate and available resources, or simply documenting information with CCRS.
- II. Stabilization/Triage: Law enforcement officers intending to drop off individuals at a Stabilization/Triage facility should contact CCRS clinicians to work with the officer or they can directly contact the facility in their county. These facilities are in: Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom Counties.
  - a. CCRS can initiate a three-way call with the Stabilization/Triage Facility and law enforcement officer to facilitate coordination between the officer and the stabilization/triage facility.

- b. Officers must speak directly with Stabilization/Triage program staff before transporting the individual to the facility.
  - c. Stabilization/Triage staff will get background information and a description of the current problems from the officer.
  - d. Stabilization/Triage center staff will obtain a copy of the behavioral health contact report from the law enforcement officer. The officer will be requested to remain at the facility until a brief screening has been completed and it has been determined the individual meets criteria for admission. The officer may be requested to transport the individual to jail or a hospital when more appropriate.
  - e. Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom County, Stabilization/Triage facilities are voluntary programs.
  - f. Stabilization/Triage facilities will coordinate with law enforcement to facilitate appropriate, safe outcomes for individuals and the community to ensure the crisis is resolved. This may include, upon request, providing disposition information to the jurisdiction that delivered the individual to the facility, as well as, other exchanges of information with appropriate authorization.
- III. After CCRS triages a case with law enforcement, outreach teams will respond with consultation or dispatch as directed by triage clinician. The outreach teams will prioritize community outreach responses. Law enforcement cases will be a top priority.
- IV. The final disposition of the consult will be communicated back to CCRS and can be communicated back to law enforcement by the DMHP if requested as part of the crisis response to the ITA investigation per 71.05.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None