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North Sound Behavioral Health Organization

Section 1700 –DMHP Coordination with Jails for Involuntary Evaluation Needs

Authorizing Source: DMHP protocols

Cancels:

See Also:

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

Responsible Staff: Deputy Director

Approved by: Executive Director

Date: 3/28/2016

Signature:

POLICY #1729.00

SUBJECT: DESIGNATED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (DMHP) COORDINATION WITH JAILS FOR INVOLUNTARY EVALUATION NEEDS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure consistent coordination between DMHPs and jails for individuals needing involuntary evaluations in accordance with RCWs 71.05 and 10.77.

POLICY

This policy provides procedures for DMHPs working with the jails when there are requests from the jails to provide an Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) evaluation.

The DMHP does not rule out any referral for investigation solely because the person is incarcerated. Persons in a jail or prison who have a mental disorder can be detained to an evaluation and treatment facility with, or without, a jail hold if the required criteria below are met.

Only individuals who are eligible for release from the jail can be detained to a treatment facility.

PROCEDURE

1. When the jail is requesting an ITA evaluation, not pursuant of a court order, for inmates eligible for release, the jail professional will contact the Care Crisis line at 1-800-747-8654. Care Crisis Clinicians will gather information to determine the basis for the DMHP request. The Care Crisis professionals will check the North Sound Consumer Information System (CIS) and will inform the DMHP of the enrollment status.
2. The Care Crisis professional will contact the DMHP on call in the county in the jail's jurisdiction. Care Crisis will pass the case to the DMHP as a Consult. The DMHP will then contact the jail to gather pertinent information to determine if a face-to-face investigation is warranted. The DMHP may request the jail fax court orders directly to the DMHP office. Information needed will include, but is not limited to: the individual's criminal charges status (felony or misdemeanor); release date; jail hold (if any); and the jail or prison's policy regarding release, current behavior, medication administration.
3. Individuals held under 10.77 (competency holds) should be referred to WSH to address competency evaluations and restoration. RCW 71.05 is not able to provide evaluation or restoration services to those individuals.
4. If an investigation is requested for an incarcerated person upon completion of competency evaluation/restoration under RCW 10.77 (Mentally Ill Offender [MIO]), an evaluation shall be conducted of such person under RCW 71.05 and RCW 10.77.065(1)(b). **To the extent possible, the DMHP, upon request of the correctional facility, will conduct the investigation shortly before the person's scheduled release date or when the correctional facility has the authority to release the person if the detention criteria are met. RCW 10.77.065.**

5. If an investigation is warranted, the DMHP will then make arrangements with the jail to evaluate the inmate, who is currently incarcerated and scheduled for release. For involuntary mental health treatment within 72 hours prior to release from confinement.
 - a. The DMHP will inform the jail/jail professional of the results of the investigation. If the DMHP decides that a detention under RCW 71.05 is necessary, the DMHP:
 - b. Coordinates the process with law enforcement personnel and other representatives of the legal system as needed.
6. The DMHP will discuss arrangements for transportation to the nearest emergency department for medical clearance and for transportation of the inmate.
7. If the result of the investigation is a decision not to detain, the DMHP may offer some recommendations to the jail professional prior to the release of the inmate.

ATTACHMENTS

None