

Mental Health Services Strategic Vision

Mission:

It is the mission of Mental Health Services within DPSCS to provide mental health care that is:

- ethical
- professional
- evidence based in practice
- compassionate

and which promotes the safe and secure functioning of correctional institutions through assisting with the evaluation, treatment and management of inmates with behavioral health concerns in a timely and effective manner.

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Values of the Mental Health Services Staff

We will:

- Be focused on outcomes which increase safety and well-being for inmates, institutional staff and communities
- Prioritize our work to make the best use of resources by focusing on: a) Treatment of serious and major mental illnesses; b) assisting in crisis resolution and the prevention of crisis situations which includes assisting custody in the management of difficult inmates; and c) providing expertise, consultation and assistance to other departments within our institutions.
- Recognize that individuals in a correctional setting must be treated with the basic human rights of dignity, respect and compassionate care.
- Be cooperative and collaborative in our dealings with other institutional and contractual staff.
- Be culturally competent in our treatment of inmates and our interactions with each other.
- Engage in training and continuous quality improvement activities.

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Identification of those most in need:

- 1) At intake identify and classify those who have serious mental health diagnoses or co-existing disorders.
- 2) Insure that these individuals are placed in institutions with appropriate treatment resources
- 3) Re-align resources to reflect areas of treatment need

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Quality of Care and Evidence Based Practices

- No inmates in our system will complete suicide.
- There will be a quality management system that insures continual review and improvement of care.
- Insure that treatments used are appropriate to the inmate's diagnosis, level of functioning and level of need.
- Insure that treatments used are effective and reflect current research.
- Insure that we remain a "learning" culture with continuous ongoing education of staff and the flexibility to implement changes as our knowledge develops.

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Least restrictive safe and effective environment

- develop settings appropriate to the housing of persons with severe mental illness
- develop assessment and intervention strategies to divert individuals with serious mental illness away from segregation (when behavior is due to mental illness)
- teach skills that will enable individuals to live in general population and community settings.

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No Wrong Door –

- mental health staff will be responsive to the identification of inmate mental health problems from all involved staff and through all methods of communication.

Integration of Services

- mental health services (contractual and state provided) will be integrated in such a way to provide continuity of care for the inmate across providers and environments. Mental health staff will communicate and consult with other program staff (social work, custody, case management, substance abuse, medical) in such a way to insure the best use of resources and the most comprehensive care for the inmate.

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The mental health services provided throughout the DPSCS system will be recognized as excellent by all reviewing bodies, visitors, inmates, their families and staff.