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COMMISSIONER

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ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION
NUMBER 600

OPR: TREATMENT

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

I. GENERAL

This Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) Administrative Regulation (AR) establishes the responsibilities, policies and procedures for inmates requiring mental health services while incarcerated.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the ADOC to:

- A. Provide clinically effective mental health services, while fostering an environment of trust and cooperation.
- B. Ensure a continuity of care when an inmate is admitted into or released from the system.
- C. Ensure a consistency in the frequency of care.
- D. Delineate mental health services, so staff can competently perform job assignments.
- E. Facilitate the coordination of efforts in the provision of mental health care between ADOC psychological services staff and contract mental health staff.
- F. Permit an on-going system-wide analysis of inmate mental health needs.
- G. Fundamentally appreciate, understand and be aware of the legal context of services:
 - 1. The right to access care.
 - 2. The right to receive treatment as ordered.
 - 3. The right to a professional medical judgment.

III. DEFINITION(S) AND ACRONYM(S)

Refer to AR 602, Mental Health Definitions and Acronyms, for definitions of the following terms used in this AR:

Continuity of Care

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

Clinical decisions and actions regarding the mental health treatment provided to inmates are based on the philosophy that medical and mental health decisions should be made for medical and mental health reasons by qualified medical and mental health professionals. The ADOC Director of Treatment will:

- A. Be the final authority for ADOC mental health decisions.
- B. Work cooperatively with institutional administrative staff to:
 - 1. Ensure mutual expectations are understood.
 - 2. Minimize conflicts in implementation.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. Mental Health Services Policies and Procedures apply to all institutions. If an institution is unable to implement a specific procedure, the ADOC Director of Treatment will:
 - 1. Be advised in writing of the need for variance.
 - 2. Provide written approval of the variance for inclusion in the institution's policy manual.
- B. The following policies and procedures are subsumed under the authority of this Regulation, and provide the framework for ADOC mental health services:

AR 601 – Mental Health Forms and Disposition

AR 602 – Mental Health Definitions and Acronyms

AR 603 – Autonomy in Mental Health Decisions

AR 604 – Confidentiality in Mental Health Services and Mental Health Documentation

AR 605 – Mental Health Staff Participation in Forensic Evaluations

AR 606 – Mental Health Quality Improvement Program

AR 607 – Mental Health Staff Orientation

AR 608 – Staff Training in Mental Health

AR 609 – Referral to Mental Health Services

AR 610 – Reception Mental Health Screening

AR 611 – Inmate Orientation to Mental Health Service

AR 612 – Reception Mental Health Evaluations

AR 613 – Mental Health Coding and Tracking of Inmates

AR 614 – Intra-System Mental Health Transfers

AR 615 – Psychiatric Evaluations

AR 616 – Psychotropic Medication

AR 617 – Psychotropic Medication Administration

AR 618 – Psychotropic Medication Monitoring

AR 619 – Psychotropic Medication and Heat

AR 620 – Emergency Forced Psychotropic Medication

AR 621 – Administrative Review for Involuntary Psychotropic Medication(s)

AR 622 – Treatment Planning

AR 623 – Outpatient Mental Health Services

AR 624 – Mental Health Segregation Rounds

AR 625 – Mental Health Evaluation of Inmates on Segregation Status

AR 626 – Mental Health Consultation to the Disciplinary Process

AR 627 – Outpatient Crisis Intervention Services

AR 628 – Inmate Discharge Planning

AR 629 – Inmate Suicide Prevention Program

AR 630 – Mental Health Watch Procedures

AR 631 – Use of Physical Restraints for Mental Health Purposes

AR 632 – Intensive Psychiatric Stabilization Units

AR 633 – Residential Treatment Units

AR 634 – Transfer to a State Psychiatric Hospital

AR 635 – Mental Health Documentation Format and Charting Guidelines

AR 636 – Mental Health Services Monthly Reporting

AR 638 – Mental Health Observation

VI. DISPOSITION

Refer to AR 601, Mental Health Forms and Disposition

VII. FORMS

Refer to AR 601, Mental Health Forms and Disposition

VIII. SUPERCEDES

This administrative regulation supercedes AR 442, dated April 17, 2001.

IX. PERFORMANCE

This AR is published under the authority of:

- A. Estelle v. Gamble (1976)
- B. Bowling v. Godwin (1977)
- C. Ruiz v. Estelle (1980)
- D. Washington v. Harper (1989)
- E. Langley v. Coughlin (1989)
- F. Farmer v. Brennan (1994)
- G. Madrid v. Gomez (1995)
- H. National Commission on Correctional Health Care: Standards for Health Services in Prisons, 2003 (P-I-1)
- I. The Bradley Agreement of August 8, 2000
- J. The Code of Alabama 1975, Section 22-50-11



Donal Campbell, Commissioner