



**Department of Juvenile Justice, Division of Operations
Standard Operating Procedure for the Behavioral Services Unit**

SOP VOL IV – 4.4-1	Statutory Authority: §§66-13, 66-18, 66-19, and 16-20 of the <u>Code of Virginia</u>
Subject: Behavioral Services Unit and Mental Health Program	New Regulations:
	Old Regulations: ACA #: 4-JCF-4D-01

1-1.0 PURPOSE

To provide quality mental health and other evaluation and treatment services to the residents at the Department of Juvenile Justice’s (DJJ’s) juvenile correctional centers (JCCs).

1-2.0 SCOPE

This operating procedure applies to all JCCs and the Behavioral Services Unit (BSU) staff assigned to them.

1-3.0 DEFINITIONS

Behavioral Services Unit (BSU) This unit is comprised of mental health, sex offender treatment, and substance abuse treatment professionals, psychological evaluators, and other staff with the education, training, and experience necessary to perform the duties required in accordance with professional standards, as authorized by the designated mental health authority, the BSU Director. The staff in this unit provides intake and exit risk assessment evaluations and treatment services to residents to address mental health, aggression management, sex offender, and substance abuse treatment needs.

Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) A physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, nurse, or other advanced degree professional that is designated as a QMHP by the DJJ Behavioral Services Unit (BSU). These professionals will be qualified by virtue of appropriate training and experience to render mental health services within their discipline. In collaboration with the DJJ Health Services Division, BSU will maintain a database of QMHPs within DJJ institutions.

BSU Treatment Director – The individual responsible for overseeing the design, development, and delivery of evaluation and treatment services for DJJ.

Local BSU Treatment Director – The individual at each facility who is responsible for ensuring the timely and quality delivery of evaluation and treatment services.

1-4.0 PROCEDURE

There shall be a mental health program approved by the designated mental health authority in compliance with local, state, and federal law that provides for all activities carried out by

QMHPs. Mental health treatment is provided by the Behavioral Services Unit and the BSU is comprised of a variety of clinical professionals with specific education, training, and experience relative to the evaluation and treatment services provided.

1-4.1 BSU Service Provision

The mental health program is not limited to, but shall include the following elements:

1. Upon intake at a JCC, all residents shall be evaluated by BSU evaluation staff, and their intellectual, cognitive, and personality functioning will be assessed. In addition, the presence or absence of mental illness will be assessed. Treatment needs shall be assessed and may include mental health, sex offender, substance abuse, and aggression management.
2. BSU staff shall be assigned to all housing units.
3. Residents shall be assigned to BSU staff according to resident housing unit unless otherwise indicated by treatment factors. These factors may include but are not limited to special treatment needs or duration and intensity of current therapeutic relationship. Treatment may be provided in the following formats: individual, group, and family therapy.
4. BSU staff shall monitor residents' mental status and provide crisis intervention as necessary. BSU staff shall make appropriate recommendations regarding the management of acute psychiatric episodes.
5. BSU shall assess residents for suicide and self injurious behavior potential as part of the initial mental health appraisal and periodically as indicated. BSU shall provide more intensive monitoring and services to residents deemed to have a higher likelihood of engaging in self-injurious behavior.
6. When residents are determined to require stabilization and prevention of psychiatric deterioration that exceeds the capabilities of DJJ, BSU shall ensure that such residents are referred to an appropriate, licensed mental health facility.

1-4.2 Informed Consent

1. Residents shall be informed of the purpose of all activities and services provided by BSU staff.
2. Residents shall also be informed of the limits of confidentiality as defined by state and federal statutes and laws.

1-5.0 RESPONSIBILITY

The local BSU Treatment Director shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this operating procedure.

1-6.0 INTERPRETATION

The Health Services Administrator in consultation with the Director of Residential Services shall be responsible for interpreting and granting any exceptions to this procedure.

1-7.0 CONFIDENTIALITY

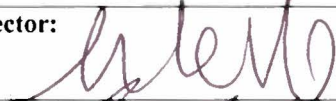
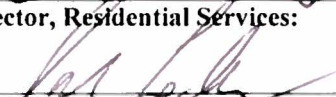

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other DJJ procedures. Any unauthorized use or distribution may result in disciplinary and/or criminal action, as appropriate and applicable.

1-8.0

REVIEW DATE

This procedure shall remain in effect until rescinded or otherwise modified by the appropriate authority.

Approved by Director:		Date:	8/11/15
Approved by Director, Residential Services:		Date:	9/29/15
Approved by Health Services Administrator:		Date:	9/29/15
Effective Date:	December 9, 2015	Office of Primary Responsibility:	Director of Residential Services, Health Services Administrator The BSU Treatment Director Local BSU Treatment Directors – Juvenile Correctional Centers
Supersedes:	N/A	Forms:	None.