

POLICY E-05 MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING AND EVALUATION

POLICY OF STATE OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION	POLICY NUMBER E-05	TOTAL PAGES 3
	RELATED NCCHC / ACA STANDARDS: NCCHC: P-E-05 (essential), J-E-05 (essential) MH-E-04 (essential), O-E-03 ACA: 5-ACI-6A-31 (mandatory), 4-ALDF-4C-29 (mandatory) 4-ACRS-4C-06 (mandatory)	
CHAPTER: 11 BUREAU OF HEALTHCARE, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	SUBJECT: Mental Health Screening and Evaluation	
APPROVED BY THE BUREAU CHIEF: Deputy Chief, Michael Records (signature on file with BHSAMH)		
APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER AND EFFECTIVE THIS DATE Commissioner Monroe B. Hudson Jr. July 25, 2021 (signature on file with BHSAMH)		
APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE		

- I. **AUTHORITY:** 11 *Del. C.* §6536 Medical Care
- II. **PURPOSE:** To ensure that all offenders receive an initial mental health screening upon admission to a facility. This ensures that offenders with mental illness will have the opportunity to continue receiving mental health services after admission to a facility.
- III. **APPLICABILITY:** All Delaware Department of Correction (DDOC) employees and Contract Provider staff, offenders, and any outside healthcare provider servicing DDOC offenders.
- IV. **DEFINITIONS:** See Glossary
- V. **SUMMARY OF CHANGES:** This policy was modified to include an additional NCCHC standard and related language.
- VI. **POLICY:**
 - A. It is the policy of the DDOC that all offenders will receive an initial mental health screening upon admission to a DDOC facility. This screening will be performed by a qualified mental health professional, or mental health trained healthcare professional. This is accomplished in the following manner:
 1. The mental health screening is conducted as part of the intake process in accordance with Bureau of Healthcare, Substance Abuse, and Mental Health Services (BHSAMH) policy *E-02 Intake Screening*.
 2. Mental health screenings may be conducted by qualified mental health professionals or by healthcare staff who have received approved and documented training on the mental health aspects of the intake screening.
 3. The initial mental health screening includes a structured interview with inquiries into:

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- a. A history of:
 - i. Psychiatric hospitalization and outpatient treatment
 - ii. Use of alcohol and/or other drugs. Includes:
 - a) Types of drugs used
 - b) Mode of use
 - c) Amounts used
 - d) Frequency of use
 - e) Date or time of last use
 - f) History of problems that have occurred when stopping use
(e.g., blackouts seizures, convulsions)
 - iii. Substance use hospitalization
 - iv. Withdrawal seizures
 - v. Medically supervised withdrawal, detoxification, and/or outpatient treatment
 - vi. Suicidal/self-injurious behavior
 - vii. Violent behavior
 - viii. Victimization
 - ix. Special education placement
 - x. Cerebral trauma
 - xi. Sexual abuse
 - xii. Sex offenses
- b. The status of:
 - i. Psychotropic medications
 - ii. Suicidal/self-injurious behavior ideation
 - iii. Drug or alcohol use
 - iv. Drug or alcohol withdrawal or intoxication
 - v. Orientation to person, place, and time
- c. Emotional response to incarceration
- d. Screening for intellectual functioning (i.e., mental retardation, developmental disability, learning disability).
- e. Currently participating in mental health treatment
- f. Current mental health concerns
- g. Observation of:
 - i. General appearance and behavior
 - a) State of consciousness
 - b) Mental status
 - c) Appearance
 - d) Conduct
 - e) Tremors
 - f) Sweating
 - ii. Evidence of abuse and/or trauma
 - iii. Current symptoms of psychosis, depression, anxiety, and or aggression.

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- h. Disposition of the offender:
 - i. Cleared for general population
 - ii. Cleared for general population with appropriate referral to mental health services
 - iii. Referral to appropriate mental health care emergency treatment
- 4. The offender's electronic health record (EHR) contains the results of the initial screening.
- 5. Offenders who screen positive for mental health problems are referred to qualified mental health professionals for further evaluation.
 - a. The EHR must include the results of this evaluation with documentation of referral or initiation of treatment when indicated.
- 6. Mental Health evaluations for offenders with positive screens during intake shall be completed within 24 hours.
- 7. Offenders who require acute mental health services beyond those available on-site are transferred to an appropriate facility.