

State of Iowa Department of Corrections

Policy and Procedures

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Applicability: DOC
Policy Code: Public access
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Chapter 6: HEALTH SERVICES
Sub Chapter: MENTAL HEALTH
Related DOC Policies: OP-WI-01
Administrative Code Reference: N/A
Subject: MENTAL HEALTH MENTORING PROGRAM
ACA Standards: 5-ACI-6B-12
Responsibility: Dr. Jerome Greenfield
Effective Date: November 2020
Authority:

1. PURPOSE

To provide support and assistance to patients in the IDOC with a mentoring program.

2. POLICY

It is the policy of the IDOC to provide uniform, written guidelines for a mentoring program working with mental health patients within the Iowa Department of Corrections.

3. DEFINITIONS

- A. Mentor - An offender who is trained to work with patients with their treatment plans. This includes peer mentors, offender listeners and unit scribes.
- B. Mentee - The patient receiving the mentoring.
- C. Peer Mentor – A patient with mental illness who is trained to work with patients with their treatment plans.
- D. Offender Listener - A mentor or peer mentor whose job includes listening to concerns of patients. The offender listener encourages the patient to use coping skills and seek help appropriately.
- E. Unit Scribe - A mentor or peer mentor whose job is to assist patients with tasks that require reading/writing skills.

F. See IDOC Policy **AD-GA-16** for additional Definitions.

4. PROCEDURES

- A. On-site offenders will be allowed to apply to be a mentor. Peer to peer offenders may be used where appropriate.
- B. Candidates will be selected from general population offenders whose level and Sexual Violent Propensity (SVP) designation is appropriate.
- C. Mentors must be report free for at least six months prior to applying for the position.
- D. Candidates will be reviewed through the classification system to determine their appropriateness for the program.
- E. A list of screened candidates will be submitted to the mentee's treatment team who will interview the candidate.
- F. Once the selection process is complete, both the mentee and mentor will sign form **HSF-781A**, *Offender Confidentiality/Release of Information*. The completed form will be kept in the mentee's medical file.
- G. A designated psychologist shall serve as the supervisor of this program and is responsible for all training.
- H. Mentors will receive a gratuity as authorized by DOC Policy **OP-WI-01**, *Offender Work Programs*.
- I. A schedule will be tailored for each patient's needs.
- J. Mentors will be provided annual training per curriculum outline, **HSP-781 Attachment A**, *Mental Health Mentoring Program Training and Guidelines*.