

# HEALTH SERVICES

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- ❖ **Vision:** Comprehensive health systems that provide quality services, accountability, and responsibility for the children in the care of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).
- ❖ **Overarching Goals:** The long-term vision and planning for the Office of Health Services is to extensively improve the quality of medical, dental, mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disability services provided to the youth in our care through increased resources, improved staffing, increased contract monitoring, technical assistance and early troubleshooting for problem areas/programs, as well as collaborations with other state agencies, such as the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

## **Office Mission:**

*To ensure the Department, and our stakeholders, provide professional, high quality, comprehensive, and timely health, mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disability services to our children.*

The Office of Health Services (OHS) was established February 21, 2005. As Florida is the fourth most populous state with 69,749 delinquency arrests during FY 2015-16<sup>1</sup>, it is critical that the Department have an organizational unit dedicated to the health, mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disability needs of delinquent youth.

OHS is responsible for assisting the Department with policy development and oversight of medical, mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disability services to all youth adjudicated delinquent and placed under the supervision of the Department. The primary goals of OHS are to:

1. Ensure medical, mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disability services provided in DJJ facilities and programs are rendered in accordance with state and federal health care regulations, rules and professional standards of care.
2. Promote delivery of high quality health care services for delinquent youth under DJJ custody or supervision.
3. Assist healthcare staff in developing and consistently implementing necessary and appropriate medical, mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disability services in DJJ facilities and programs.

<sup>1</sup> SOURCE: Florida Delinquency Profile. Available online: <http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/delinquency-data/delinquency-profile>

The Office of Health Services collaborates with every program area in the Department. OHS strives to ensure quality and timely care to our youth within the Department's shelters and programs administered by Prevention and Victim Services, facility-based day treatment centers administered by Probation and Community Interventions, state-operated detention centers, and residential programs/facilities. The health care services provided in DJJ facilities and programs are procured through contracted providers. To adequately fulfill its responsibilities to the Department and the youth in its care and custody, OHS provides contract standardization and enhancement, contract compliance and monitoring, youth placement reviews, assistance with medical investigations, policy, rule and decision making, technical assistance and training of medical, mental health and direct care staff, and the support of interagency collaborations.

Youth may enter the Department's care with pre-existing chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, hemophilia, sickle cell disease, renal failure, etc., and serious dental disease. Some youth have not accessed medical care prior to entering the Department's facilities and new diseases are discovered while they are in custody. Nonetheless, the Department is responsible for ensuring that these youth receive the same degree of care that would be available to them in the community.

Many of the youth entering DJJ facilities and programs, have current or history of mental illness, or substance abuse problems. These issues must be addressed through screening, assessment, evaluation, and crisis intervention and treatment services. There is also a subset of DJJ youth who are developmentally disabled. The Department is responsible for ensuring that youth with a developmental disability receive appropriate care and treatment services. Each of the Department's primary program areas has a means in place to begin to approach these circumstances, but OHS has been actively engaged in the process of improvement, oversight, and further development.

### **Rule Authority**

Rule 63M-2 (Health Services) and Rule 63N-1 (Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Disability Services) were fully adopted in June 2014.

DJJ Health Services Rule (63M-2) establishes the statewide requirements for the Department's health care treatment services for youth in its custody. The purpose is to:

- Ensure that health care services provided in facilities and programs are rendered in accordance with state and federal health care regulations, rules and professional standards of care.
- Promote delivery of high-quality health care services for delinquent youth under department custody or supervision by assisting medical health care staff in developing and consistently implementing necessary and appropriate health care services in department facilities and programs.
- Establish health care services within the continuum of services that promote adolescent health, well-being, and development.

DJJ Health Services Rule (63M-2) applies to all state and privately operated juvenile justice detention centers and residential commitment programs. It is intended to direct physicians, physician's assistants, advanced registered nurse practitioners, licensed nurses and other clinical and departmental staff involved in the care or treatment of youth receiving health care services. It is also intended to direct the Department's regional juvenile justice staff that have the responsibility of monitoring and ensuring the appropriate delivery of quality health care services to youth within the Department's facilities and programs.

The DJJ Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Disability Services Rule (63N-1) establishes the requirements for delivery of mental health, substance abuse and developmental disability services in Department of Juvenile Justice facilities and programs. The rule applies to juvenile assessment centers, detention centers, residential commitment and day treatment programs operated by, or under contract with, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

### **Trauma-Informed Care**

DJJ is very committed to meeting the needs of the youth in our care. By providing trauma-informed care, we have an opportunity to impact the lives of children like never before. We will be undergoing a paradigm shift in how we provide treatment services. Staff will no longer ask, "What's wrong with you," but instead, "What happened to you?" This shift is based on the premise that many of the children and families in the juvenile justice system come from lives filled with trauma, abuse, violence, and fear.

The effect of trauma is realized by every age group, race, ethnicity, socio-economic group, gender, community, and workforce. In order for us to be successful, we must ensure that our employees are provided the resources and support to assist them in working with young people who may present very challenging behaviors. We are resolved that in DJJ, trauma will be acknowledged and addressed. By providing trauma-informed care we will continue to be "part of the solution," and the children we serve will be afforded the opportunity to live with more hope than fear.

Upon completion of the initial mandatory trauma-informed care training, Department employees will be provided additional trauma training that will address the practical application of trauma-informed practices.

The next step in the Department's trauma-informed care initiative will be to teach youth about triggers, help them to identify their personal triggers, and assist them in developing calming and self-soothing strategies when triggered. All youth in residential care will participate in developing a safety plan prior to their discharge to the community.

### **Effective Programming and Services for Girls**

Girls entering DJJ facilities and programs often have serious unmet healthcare needs, especially girls who are runaways, living in poverty or have limited access to healthcare. Incarcerated girls and young women have high rates of infectious and communicable diseases; sexually transmitted diseases, genitourinary disorders, and injuries. There are high rates of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse victimization histories among both boys and girls involved in the juvenile justice system, though rates among girls are even greater than among

boys. Additionally, research and observational evidence indicate that there is often a more direct link between victimization histories and delinquent offending among girls than among their male counterparts. These differences make it very important that all services are delivered through a gender-specific model. Focused efforts on the redirection of seclusion and restraints must be prioritized.

### **Formal Notification and Clinical Procedures - Residential Program Placement**

As a part of the Department's Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) Bed Management System, the Office of Health Services utilizes a formal process for providing medical recommendations for committed youth identified as requiring increased or high-level medical care. The medical recommendations are entered directly into JJIS for probation officers and commitment managers to assist with appropriate residential placement for these youth.

### **Electronic Medical Records**

The Office of Health Services, in collaboration with Management Information Services (MIS), has developed an Electronic Medical Record (EMR) within JJIS. OHS continues to work with MIS in developing and implementing refinements to this system to assure comprehensive and timely information are available pertaining to the health and treatment of youth in the DJJ system. The EMR incorporates OHS medical, mental health and substance abuse services forms and other documents that comprise an Individual Health Care Record. The EMR allows medical, mental health and substance abuse professionals to enter into JJIS youth-specific healthcare information. The EMR module in JJIS is a separate, secure location, permission-based and accessible only to those staff providing services for the youth. Reports may also be accessed through the EMR system to capture certain medical, mental health and substance abuse information and data.

### **Medical and Mental Health Contract Development and Procurement**

Medical and mental health contract procurements for the Office of Health Services and Detention Services (regional and statewide) are initiated in the Office of Health Services. OHS works very closely with the Bureau of Contract Administration, the Bureau of Contract Management and Detention Services to ensure that the services to be provided are clearly articulated and contract actions are initiated in a timely manner.