



SALISH BH-ASO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy Name: JAIL TRANSITION SERVICES

Policy Number: CL207

Effective Date: 1/1/2020

Revision Dates: 5/14/20; 04/14/2023

Reviewed Date: 7/19/2019

Executive Board Approval Dates: 11/1/2019; 1/15/2021; 5/19/2023

PURPOSE

To outline the provision of Jail Transition Services to non-Medicaid eligible individuals residing in the Salish Regional Service Area (RSA) within available resources.

POLICY

The Salish Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (SBH-ASO) Providers provide Jail Transition Services for incarcerated individuals residing in the Salish RSA in accordance with the HCA BH-ASO Contract.

PROCEDURE

1. SBH-ASO Jail Transition Services are to be provided within available resources.
 - a. SBH-ASO and Providers coordinate with local law enforcement and jail personnel to meet the needs of individuals detained in city, county, Tribal, and regional jails.
 - b. Providers must identify and provide transition services to persons with mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders to expedite and facilitate their return to the community.
 - c. Providers accept referrals for intake of persons who are not enrolled in community mental health services but who meet priority populations as defined in Chapter 71.24 RCW. SBH-ASO Providers must conduct mental health intake assessments for these persons and, when appropriate, provide transition services prior to their release from jail.
 - d. Providers assist Individuals with mental health needs in completing and submitting an application for medical assistance prior to release from jail.
 - e. Providers assist Individuals with mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders with the coordination of the re-activation of Medicaid benefits

if those benefits were suspended while the Individual was incarcerated, which may involve coordinating the submission of prior authorization with the managed care organizations.

2. Pre-release services include:

- a. Mental health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) screening for Individuals who display behavior consistent with a need for such screening, who submit a request for services, or who have been referred by jail staff or officers of the court.
- b. Mental health intake assessments for persons identified during the mental health screening as a member of a priority population.
- c. Facilitation of expedited medical and financial eligibility determination with the goal of immediate access to benefits upon release from incarceration.
- d. Other prudent pre-release and pre-trial case management and transition planning.
- e. Direct mental health or SUD services to Individuals who are in jails that have no mental health staff.

3. Post-release outreach to ensure follow-up for mental health and other services (e.g., SUD) to stabilize Individuals in the community.

4. If the SBH-ASO has provided the jail services in this section the SBH-ASO may also use the Jail Coordination Services funds, if sufficient, to facilitate any of the following:

- a. Daily cross-reference between new booking and the Data Store to identify newly booked persons.
- b. Develop individual alternative service plans (alternative to the jail) for submission to the courts. Plans will incorporate evidence-based risk assessment screening tools.
- c. Inter-local Agreements with juvenile detention facilities.
- d. Provide up to a seven (7) day supply of medications for the treatment of mental health symptoms following the release from jail.
- e. Training to local law enforcement and jail services personnel regarding de-escalation, crisis intervention, and similar training topics.

5. Peer Pathfinders for Transitions from Incarceration

- a. In conjunction with the Jail Transitions Team, the Peer Pathfinder will attempt to engage Individuals in planning their discharge. SBH-ASO contracted jail transition teams will help the Peer Pathfinder identify potential participants.
- b. The Peer Pathfinder will work with the Individual on transitioning out of incarceration and into community-based services to address identified needs.
- c. These supports may include spending time establishing social support, helping with independent living skills, developing coping skills, and community adjustment skills.
- d. Community-based post-release activities may include:
 - i. Assisting the Individual in developing a crisis plan with the Individual's behavioral health service agency. The Peer Pathfinder may be identified as a non-crisis resource in the plan.
 - ii. Work to connect the Individual with natural support resources and the local recovery community and attend meetings as allowed.
 - iii. Support the Individual in developing skills to facilitate trust-based relationships, develop strategies for maintaining wellness and develop skills to support relationships.
 - iv. Assist the Individual in developing a life structure, including skills for daily living such as visits to coffee shops, use of local transportation, opening a bank account, work effectively with a payee if needed, understand benefits, budget planning, shopping and meal preparation, access leisure activities, find a church or faith home, attain, and maintain housing, etc.
 - v. Support the Individual in developing skills to schedule, track and attend appointments with providers.
 - vi. Assist the Individual develop skills for self-advocacy so that the Individual can better define his or her treatment plan and communicate clearly with professionals such as psychiatric prescribers, primary care doctors, etc. The Peer Pathfinder should also help Individuals prepare for appointments and identify questions or comments the Individual might have for the provider.
 - vii. Explore supported employment that addresses the following:
 1. Employment goals and how they relate to recovery.
 2. The availability of additional training and education to help the Individual become employable.
 3. The array of employment programs and supported employment opportunities available within the region.

- e. The hand-off between the Peer Pathfinder and the community behavioral health provider who is providing behavioral health services will be gradual and based on the Individual's needs and their person-centered plan.
 - i. The anticipated duration of in-community Peer Pathfinder services is 120 calendar days with extensions granted by SBH-ASO on a case-by-case basis.