San Diego County Probation Department

Institutional Services Policy Manual

Counseling Services

704.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a process for providing counseling and crisis intervention services to youths (15 CCR 1356;15 CCR 1437).

Mental health care for youths with signs of mental illness or a developmental disability is covered in the Availability and Standards of Care Policy.

704.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this department to provide counseling and crisis intervention services to any youth who requests services or for whom there is a concern. Any member can refer a youth for counseling.

704.3 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESPONSIBILITY

The Division Chief is responsible for collaborating with Behavioral Health Services to:

- (a) Develop and maintain procedures to facilitate the availability of appropriate counseling and crisis intervention services for youths in need of such services (15 CCR 1356). Services shall include:
 - 1. Assistance with needs or concerns that may arise.
 - 2. Access to available resources to meet the youth's needs.
- (b) Develop and maintain procedures to refer youths in need of counseling services when requested by the youth, the youth's parent/guardian, or members.
- (c) Develop and maintain procedures to document counseling or crisis intervention services provided to youths.
- (d) Develop and maintain procedures to identify personnel who will provide counseling and crisis intervention services, which should include consideration of training, qualifications, and applicable licensing requirements.

704.4 REQUESTS AND REFERRALS

The Division Chief shall ensure that JFO-STAT Team Request for Mental Health Services forms are available and provided to youths who request counseling services. All youth requests for counseling shall be forwarded to the Behavioral Health Services, Juvenile Forensics Stabilization Treatment, Assessment and Transition (STAT) Team.

A member who observes behavior in a youth that may indicate a need for counseling or crisis intervention services shall notify the STAT Team. The STAT Team shall assess the need and area of counseling and facilitate counseling services as soon as practicable, with consideration given to facility security, scheduling, and available resources (15 CCR 1437; 15 CCR 1437.5).

Members observing signs of suicidal thoughts or tendencies in a youth should proceed according to the Suicide Prevention and Intervention Policy (15 CCR 1329).

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704.5 REQUIRED COUNSELING SERVICES

Members who reasonably believe that a youth has been a victim of sexual abuse should inform the youth of the availability of counseling as provided in the Prison Rape Elimination Act Policy and should proceed with any reporting and other applicable requirements in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act Policy.

704.6 NON-CRISIS COUNSELING

The Department shall, when reasonably practicable, make counseling services and/or case management services available to assist youths who are being released into the community.

704.7 TRAINING

Members who interact with youths should receive training on identifying behavior and other signs in youths that may indicate a need for counseling or crisis intervention services. Training should include familiarizing with all counseling programs available and the process for referring youths for counseling.