

 <div style="text-align: center;"> DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURES </div>	DAI Policy #: 500.10.36	Page 1 of 4
	Original Effective Date: 08/10/97	New Effective Date: 02/03/25
	Supersedes: 500.10.36	Dated: 03/01/21
	Administrator's Approval: Sarah Cooper, Administrator – 12/20/24	
	Required Posting or Restricted: <input type="checkbox"/> PIOC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted	
Chapter: 500 Health Services		
Subject: Responsible Health Authority		

POLICY

The Division of Adult Institutions shall recognize the Director of Healthcare Administration as the Responsible Health Authority for the Department of Corrections at the systems level. The Responsible Health Authority at the systems level (RHA-S) ensures that the system maintains a coordinated system for health care delivery. The RHA-S shall designate daily facility level operations to the on-site Health Services Manager (NC4 for centers) for coordination of health care delivery at the local level.

REFERENCES

Standards for Health Services in Prisons – National Commission on Correctional Health Care, 2018, P-A-02 Responsible Health Authority

DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS AND FORMS

Advanced Care Provider – Provider with prescriptive authority.

BHS – Bureau of Health Services

Clinical Director's – Physician, psychiatrist, dentist, psychologist, nurse or pharmacist organizationally responsible at a systems level for oversight of clinical operations, quality and coordination of care for their designated area inclusive of facilitating the development of policy and procedures.

Designated Mental Health Clinician – Refers to a psychiatrist, psychologist, or psychiatric social worker who is responsible for clinical mental health issues when mental health services at the facility are under a different authority than medical services.

DOC – Department of Corrections

PIOC – Persons in Our Care

Responsible Health Authority – Systems (RHA-S) – Responsible for the system's health care services and ensures quality, accessible, and timely health services for patients.

Responsible Health Authority (RHA-L) – Responsible for the facility's health care services, and arranges for all levels of health care and assures quality, accessible and timely health services for patients. The individual responsible for the facility health care

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services is the Health Service Manager. Within the Center System this is the Nurse Clinician 4.

Responsible Advanced Care Provider – Designated Advanced Care Provider who has the final authority at a given facility regarding clinical decisions.

PROCEDURE

I. RHA-System's

- A. The Director of Healthcare Administration:
 1. Is responsible for decisions regarding operational, fiscal, policy and resource matters concerning the delivery of health care.
 2. Delegates authority to BHS Clinical Directors who are responsible for health care in their area of expertise.
 3. Establishes a mission statement defining the scope of health services.
 4. Develops systems for the coordination of care.
 5. Develops and establishes written agreements and resources to ensure scope of services are provided for the patient population.

II. BHS Clinical Directors

- A. The Medical Director has designated authority for all clinical medical practice decisions requiring medical judgments with delegated authority to the Associate Medical Directors.
- B. The Mental Health Director has delegated authority to plan, direct and implement programs and makes recommendations regarding operational matters concerning the delivery of mental health services with delegated authority to the Psychiatry Director and Psychology Director.
- C. The Dental Director has delegated authority to plan, direct, implement and administer programs and operational matters concerning the delivery of appropriate dental health services for patients with delegated authority to the Associate Dental Directors.
- D. The Pharmacy Director has delegated authority to plan, direct and implement programs and make recommendations regarding the organization and implementation of pharmaceutical care delivery systems and oversight of pharmaceutical dispensing operations.
- E. The Nursing Director has designated authority to plan, direct and implement the professional practice of nursing in the delivery of patient care. This position promotes professional nursing practice, patient care delivery that is consistent with nursing scope and standards, evidence base practice and licensure and may delegate authority to the Assistant Directors of Nursing.

III. Responsible Health Authority at the Local Level

- A. The RHA-S designates responsibility to each DOC facility Health Services Manager the accountability for being the RHA-L.

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- B. The purpose of designating an RHA-L is to ensure adequate and timely delivery of health care. This position shall:
 - 1. Develop systems for monitoring and measuring care delivery.
 - 2. Ensure compliance with standards, timeliness and efficiency of care.

- C. The facility RHA-L coordinates health care (with the exception of the centers which are covered by the NC4) by:
 - 1. Arranging for all levels of health care and ensures quality, accessible, and timely health services for patients.
 - 2. Being on-site at least weekly (NC4 shall be in communication with centers at least weekly).
 - 3. Implementing corrective actions for problems which are identified through a designated and integrated health services process, monitoring the outcomes of any recommended changes, and ensuring adjustments and revisions are made as needed.
 - 4. Working cooperatively with the clinical directors and clinical supervisors who have responsibility for clinicians in the facility.
 - 5. Ensuring compliance with licensure and/or certification.

- D. Each facility shall have an assigned Associate Medical Director and Psychological Services Director that are responsible for:
 - 1. Supervising clinical judgments regarding care provided to patients at the facility.
 - 2. Establishing and implementing policies for the clinical aspects of the program.
 - 3. Monitoring the appropriateness, timeliness and responsiveness of care and treatment.
 - 4. Reviewing recommendations for a patient's treatment made by community health care clinicians.

DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS FACILITY IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

Facility: Name		
Original Effective Date:	DAI Policy Number: 500.10.36	Page 4 of 4
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Chapter: 500 Health Services		
Subject: Responsible Health Authority		
Will Implement <input type="checkbox"/> As written <input type="checkbox"/> With below procedures for facility implementation		
Warden's/Center Superintendent's Approval:		

REFERENCES

DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS AND FORMS

FACILITY PROCEDURE

I.

A.

B.

1.

2.

a.

b.

c.

3.

C.

II.

III.

RESPONSIBILITY

I. Staff

II. Inmate

III. Other