



**STATE OF MONTANA  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
POLICY DIRECTIVE**

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| Policy No. DOC<br>4.5.47                                              | Subject: <b>HEALTH TRAINING FOR CUSTODY STAFF</b> |
| Chapter 4: FACILITY/PROGRAM SERVICES                                  | Page 1 of 3                                       |
| Section 5: Clinical Services                                          | Effective Date: January 4, 2021                   |
| Department Director Signature: /s/ Cynthia Wolken                     | Revised:                                          |
| Medical Director Signature: /s/ Dr. Paul Rees                         |                                                   |
| Clinical Services Division Administrator Signature: /s/ Connie Winner |                                                   |

## **I. POLICY**

The Department of Corrections will provide healthcare and mental health training for custody staff to understand their part in early detection of illness and injury and to recognize the need to refer an offender to a qualified health care or mental health professional.

## **II. APPLICABILITY**

All secure care facilities Department-owned and contracted.

## **III. DEFINITIONS**

**Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation** – A medical procedure involving repeated compression of a patient's chest, performed in an attempt to restore the blood circulation and breathing of a person who has suffered cardiac arrest.

**Facility Administrator** – The official, regardless of local title (administrator, warden, superintendent), ultimately responsible for the facility or program operation and management.

**Mental Health Staff** – Qualified Mental Health Professionals and Qualified Health Care Professionals who have received instruction and supervision in identifying and interacting with individuals in need of mental health services.

**Qualified Health Care Professional** – Physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, dentists, mental health professionals and others who by virtue of their education, credentials, and experience are permitted by law to evaluate and care for offenders, including contracted or fee-for service professionals.

**Qualified Mental Health Professional** – Psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric social workers, psychiatric nurses, licensed professional counselors and others who by virtue of their education, credentials, and experience are permitted by law to evaluate and care for the mental health needs of offenders.

## **IV. DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES**

### **A. General Requirements**

**Subject: HEALTH TRAINING FOR CUSTODY STAFF**

1. The responsible health and mental health authorities in cooperation with the facility administrator will establish a health training program for correctional officers.
2. The responsible health authority will approve the health training program.
3. An outline of the approved training, including course content and length, must be kept on file.
4. Custody staff who work with offenders receive health-related training at least every two years.
5. A certificate or other evidence of attendance is kept on-site for each employee.

**B. Health Training Program**

1. The training program needs to include at a minimum the following:
  - a. administration of first aid;
  - b. cardiopulmonary resuscitation including use of an automated external defibrillator;
  - c. acute manifestations of certain chronic illnesses (e.g., asthma, seizures, diabetes);
  - d. intoxication and withdrawal;
  - e. adverse reactions to medications;
  - f. signs and symptoms of mental illness;
  - g. dental emergencies;
  - h. procedures for suicide preventions;
  - i. procedures for appropriate referral of offenders with medical, dental, and mental health complaints;
  - j. precautions and procedures for infectious and communicable diseases; and
  - k. maintain patient confidentiality.
2. Custody staff for the juvenile population who are assigned to outside programs are current in CPR, first-aid training, and prevention of heat-related illnesses.

**C. Mental Health Training Program**

1. All custody staff who work with juveniles will receive mental health training annually that includes, at a minimum:
  - a. recognizing signs and symptoms of mental illness, substance abuse, and intellectual and developmental disabilities;
  - b. communicating with offenders who exhibit signs of mental illness, substance abuse, and intellectual and developmental disabilities;
  - c. procedures for suicide prevention and intervention; and
  - d. procedures for appropriate referral of offenders with mental health complaints or suicidal behaviors to mental health staff.
2. Custody staff assigned to intake screening and mental health services, including mental health programs, residential units, and restrictive housing areas, receive additional training from Mental Health Staff in order to fulfill their specific roles.

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## V. CLOSING

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the Clinical Services Division Administrator.

## VI. REFERENCES

- A. P-C-04; National Commission on Correctional Health Services in Prisons, 2018
- B. MH-C-04; National Commission on Correctional Mental Health Services in Correctional Facilities, 2015
- C. Y-C-04; National Commission on Correctional Health Services in Juvenile Detention and Confinement Facilities, 2015

## VII. ATTACHMENTS

None