



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

Policy No. DOC 4.5.54	Subject: <b>MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT PLANS</b>	
Chapter 4: FACILITY/PROGRAM SERVICES		Page 1 of 2
Section 5: Clinical Services		Effective Date: 4/19/2021
Department Director Signature: /s/ Brian Gootkin		Revised:
Medical Director Signature: /s/ Dr. Paul Rees		
Clinical Services Division Administrator Signature: /s/ Connie Winner		

**I. POLICY**

The Department of Corrections will ensure that mental health services are provided according to individual treatment plans.

**II. APPLICABILITY**

All Department of Corrections secure care facilities.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

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

**Responsible Mental Health Clinician** – The Clinical Services Division Mental Health Bureau Chief.

**Treatment Plan** – A series of written statements specifying a patient’s particular course of therapy and the roles of qualified mental health professionals in carrying it out. The plan is individualized, may be multidisciplinary, and is based on an assessment of the patient’s needs. It contains a statement of short-and long-term goals, as well as, methods by which those goals are pursued. It also includes consideration of cultural and language difference.

**IV. DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES**

**A. General Requirements**

1. An individual treatment plan directs the mental health services needed for every offender on the mental health caseload and includes treatment goals and objectives.
2. The responsible mental health clinician completes periodic reviews of individual treatment plans.
3. Individual treatment planning is initiated when the offender enters treatment with a qualified mental health professional. Development of a treatment plan is undertaken in collaboration with the offender when feasible.

4. Although a specific form for the treatment plan is recommended, documentation may vary in format provided that the required content is addressed.

## **B. Treatment Plan**

1. Mental health treatment plans include, at a minimum, the following:
  - a. frequency of follow-up for evaluation and adjustment of modalities;
  - b. adjustments of psychotropic medications, if indicated;
  - c. referrals for psychological testing, medical testing, and evaluation, including blood levels for medication monitoring as required;
  - d. when appropriate, instructions about diet, exercise, personal hygiene, and adaptation to the correctional environment; and
  - e. documentation of treatment goals and objectives, interventions necessary to achieve those goals, and notation of clinical progress.

## **V. CLOSING**

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

## **VI. REFERENCES**

*A. MH-G-03; National Commission on Mental Health Services in Correctional Facilities, 2015*

## **VII. ATTACHMENTS**

None