ADMISSION TO THE TDCJ MENTAL HEALTH THERAPEUTIC DIVERSION PROGRAM (MHTDP)

PURPOSE: To provide for the mental health needs of TDCJ mentally ill outpatient inmates assigned to restrictive housing, with the goal of assisting them to achieve the optimal level of functioning in a therapeutic diversion setting.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Mental Health Therapeutic Diversion Program (MHTDP) is a voluntary cognitive-behavioral model that provides assessment, evaluation and treatment. Program participants are required to participate in group counseling, individual counseling and self-study programs. The program is structured to develop and promote coping strategies for successful integration into the least restrictive prison environment and, upon release, into the community.

PROCEDURES:

A. Custody classification of inmates assigned to the MHTDP will be Mental Health (MH).

B. Eligibility requirements:

1. CID inmate who is assigned to restrictive housing and carried on a mental health caseload;

2. Has at least one year remaining on sentence in order to complete the program;

3. Is approved for housing at MHTDP by the TDCJ Classification and Records Office (CRO); and,

4. Is able to independently perform all activities of daily living (e.g. ADLs, eating, grooming, hygiene, toileting and walking) without staff assistance and does not require any skilled nursing care.

REFERRAL PROCESS:

Inmates are identified for referral by the TDCJ Office of Mental Health Services Liaison (MHSL) or by unit mental health staff completing the Mental Health Referral to Special Programs note wizard in the electronic health record (EHR).

A. The Consent for Treatment Form will be scanned into the (EHR).

B. A current Mental Health Evaluation (MHE) or clinical interview must be documented in the EHR by the QMHP at the inmate’s unit of assignment prior to reassignment.

C. CRO will determine whether the inmate meets security requirements and is approved for reassignment.
in accordance with TDCJ classification policies.

D. CRO will arrange transport to the MHTDP via chain.

INMATES TRANSFERRED TO A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITY:

Inmates assigned to MHTDP who require treatment at a Behavioral Health Facility (BHF) may return to the MHTDP upon discharge from the BHF. The following procedures will apply:

A. Crisis Management: MHTDP bed will be held for an inmate while in crisis management.

B. Behavioral Health Facility: The bed will be held until the MHTDP Treatment Team conducts a review to determine whether or not the inmate is able to return.

C. Medical inpatient (Infirmary/Hospitalization): The MHTDP bed will be held for the inmate until the MHTDP Treatment Team conducts a review of the inmate’s admission to a TDCJ infirmary and/or community hospital. If the Treatment Team determines that the inmate is not expected to return to that bed, that inmate will be referred to the Senior Psychologist for final disposition.

DISCHARGE PROCESS:

A. Program discharge can only be approved by the program’s Senior Psychologist.

B. Upon successful completion of the MHTDP, the program Senior Psychologist will notify MHSL in writing, of the inmate’s status.

C. MHSL will schedule a State Classification Committee (SCC) review for consideration of placement in general population.

D. An inmate who does not complete the program and/or is discharged from the program for serious rule violation(s) shall be reassigned to CMI-Sheltered Housing or referred to another appropriate mental health program.

REFERENCE:

ACA Standard 4-4399 (Ref. 3-4369) Special Needs
CMHC Policy G-51.1 Inmates with Special Needs
ACA 4-RH-0031
ACA 4-RH-0032