

STATE OF OHIO



DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION
AND CORRECTION

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| SUBJECT: Special Needs Inmates | PAGE <u> 1 </u> OF <u> 3 </u> NUMBER: 71-SOC-06 |
| RULE/CODE REFERENCE: | SUPERSEDES: 71-SOC-06 dated 01/23/09 |
| RELATED ACA STANDARDS: 4-4305 | EFFECTIVE DATE: April 11, 2012 |
| | APPROVED:  |

I. AUTHORITY

This policy is issued in compliance with Ohio Revised Code 5120.01 which delegates to the Director of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction the authority to manage and direct the total operations of the Department and to establish such rules and regulations as he prescribes.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the procedures for identifying, classifying and providing meaningful programming for inmates with special needs.

III. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all persons employed by or under contract with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and to all inmates confined to institutions within the Department.

IV. DEFINITIONS

Developmental Disability - Legally defined as a lifelong disability attributable to a mental or physical impairment other than a sole diagnosis of mental illness, manifested before age 22 years, likely to continue indefinitely, resulting in substantial limitation in three or more specified areas of functioning and requiring specific, lifelong or extended care (DSM-IV). This includes, but is not limited to: a specific or Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PPD) now referred to as Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) such as autism, Rett's, Asperger's; traumatic brain injury or other brain damage, cerebral palsy, hearing loss, vision, muscular dystrophy, sensory impairments, seizure disorders, orthopedic impairments, cerebral palsy, fetal alcohol syndrome, disabling vision impairment, muscular dystrophy, sensory impairments and seizure disorders (AAIDD, 2007).

Intellectual Disability – This is defined as a disability characterized by significant limitations, both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior, as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills. This originates before the age of 18.

Special Needs Inmates - Inmates who may require special assistance, placement, or programming due to advanced age, physical limitations, chronic illness, serious mental illness, sex offense behavior, intellectual disabilities/developmental disability, learning disability, a history of alcohol or substance abuse or dependence, or other factors that may interfere with a person's normal functioning.

V. POLICY

It is the policy of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to provide an initial classification process for newly received inmates who shall identify inmates with special needs, as set forth by the stated definitions, and in accordance with the Ohio Plan for Productive Prisons. Special programming may be provided, as resources allow, for inmates with special needs who are unable to participate in "mainstream" institutional programming or who require specialized program development based on the nature of their needs.

VI. PROCEDURES

A. Inmates with serious illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, medical illness or physical limitation(s) shall not be discriminated against from participation in available prison programs, services and activities, solely because of their illness or condition. Reasonable accommodation shall be made as necessary to achieve this end.

B. Initial Screening – At reception and orientation of inmates, staff shall use the following data and techniques to determine special needs inmates:

1. Pre-sentence and post sentence investigation reports;
2. Interviews;
3. Mental health screening per Department Policy 67-MNH-02, Mental Health Screening and Assessment Activities;
4. Department Policy 57-EDU-01, Inmate Assessment and Placement in Educational Programs, and Department Policy 57-EDU-11, Special Education;
5. Medical/physical limitation screening per Department Policy 52-RCP-06, Reception Intake Medical Screening and Medical Protocol B13, Evaluation for Functional Limitations Impacting Placement;
6. Screening for intellectual and developmental disabilities per Department Policy 67-MNH-22, Offenders with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities; Screening, Evaluation, Treatment and Reentry.

C. Treatment Planning

At reception and parent institutions, staff shall record a diagnostically driven plan of action, Treatment Plan (DRC5197), outlining a course of treatment and recommended programming for inmates with special needs following established guidelines per Department Policy 67-MNH-15, Mental Health Treatment.

D. Placement/Programs

Special needs are addressed through placement and/or programming and include, but are not limited to:

1. Placement and programming to accommodate mental health needs in the least restrictive setting. Available services include outpatient, crisis stabilization unit, residential treatment unit and acute care psychiatric hospitalization.
2. Placement to accommodate medical needs. This may be provided through use of the Franklin Medical Center, Frazier Health Center, and/or special units within the parent institutions.
3. Placement in the Sugar Creek Development Unit (SCDU) for those inmates with intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities whose needs cannot be adequately addressed in the general population. Specialized programming for the ID/DD population is provided both at the SCDU and as outpatient services for inmates in other institutions.
4. Placement and programming in residential, day treatment, and other alcohol and other drug education, treatment, and/or support programs for those inmates with a history of substance abuse. Drug testing is an integral part of such programming.
5. Placement and/or programming in residential or day treatment programs for sex offenders.
6. Placement in educational programs for those inmates with special needs is outlined in Department Policies 57-EDU-01, Inmate Assessment and Placement in Educational Programs, and 57-EDU-11, Special Education. Appropriate accommodations are designed and implemented for inmates with special needs.
7. Placement at the Hocking Correctional Facility and/or in specialized housing units in other institutions for those aged inmates who have difficulty addressing their needs in general population at other parent institutions. Programming adapted to the specific needs of the older population is also available.

E. Equal Access to Programs and Services

Inmates with special needs related to disabilities shall be given equal access to programming and services as per Department Policy 64-DCM-02, Inmates with Disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are made when the need exists.

Related Department Forms

Treatment Plan

DRC5197