



COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL PEACE OFFICER
STANDARDS AND TRAINING

GENERAL STANDARD 012

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MENTAL HEALTH

STANDARD

All Correctional Peace Officers shall be knowledgeable of the available mental health programs and services for incarcerated persons and parolees within CDCR, as well as the essential role and positive impact mental health intervention may have on the rehabilitation of incarcerated persons and the safety and security of our prisons. Additionally, all Correctional Peace Officers shall understand and act in accordance with their authority and responsibility, be able to use effective communication, and make ethical and safe decisions while working with mentally ill incarcerated persons and parolees.

COMPONENTS

The components of this standard are as follows:

1. Correctional Peace Officers will be provided training on the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to maintain the safety and security of all parties while working with incarcerated persons and parolees with mental health conditions.
2. Correctional Peace Officers shall understand their authority and responsibility, and the importance of custody and clinical staff teamwork to ensure proper handling, reporting, and timely referral of incarcerated persons perceived as experiencing a mental health crisis.
3. Correctional Peace Officers shall demonstrate situational and tactical awareness and the ability to respond to incarcerated persons who are experiencing a mental health crisis.
4. Correctional Peace Officers shall use effective communication skills to try to convey intended meaning and establish understanding with mentally ill incarcerated persons to de-escalate crisis situations.
5. Correctional Peace Officers shall abide by the accepted principles of conduct governing decisions and actions regarding incarcerated persons who have mental health issues.

AUTHORITY

California Penal Code 13601 (a)(1), (a)(3), and (d)

California Penal Code 13603 (b)

BACKGROUND

In the case of *Coleman, et al v. Brown, et al*, (1995) the Court directed California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to provide mental health services training for all personnel having regular contact with incarcerated persons and parolees.

CDCR will provide a broad range of mental health services to incarcerated persons and parolees by assessing the needs of its population and developing specialized programs of mental health care, to the extent resources are available for this purpose. Necessary and appropriate mental health services will be provided to incarcerated persons and parolees, and adequate staff and facilities will be maintained for the delivery of such services (Title 15, Section 3360 (a).

CDCR shall receive, evaluate, house, treat, and/or refer all incarcerated persons who, by virtue of their mental illness, are unable to appropriately function within the constraints of the usual correctional processing or program assignments (DOM 91020.1). Additionally, CDCR will provide for the detection, diagnosis, treatment, and referral of incarcerated persons and parolees with mental health problems and to assist each facility's Warden during all stages of the incarcerated person's period of incarceration (DOM 91020.2).

REFERENCES AND CITATIONS

California Penal Code 13601 (a)(1)(3)

CDCR Department Operations Manual (DOM) Sections 91020.1 and 91020.2

Coleman, et al v. Brown, et al (1995)

California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Section 3360, Availability of Mental Health Services

CDCR Code of Conduct for Correctional Peace Officers

CPOST GS001 Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

CPOST GS009 Ethics