

Principles of Jail Diversion for Law Enforcement

NorthCare Network Training FY17

Scope of the Problem

- * One in 10 police calls involves a person with a mental illness.
- * Over 14 million people are arrested each year,
- * Over 1 million arrestees have serious mental illnesses.
- * The vast majority will be released to the community.

Scope of Problem cont'd

- * 54 million Americans have a mental disorder in any given year.
- * Fewer than 8 million seek treatment.
- * Depression and anxiety disorders—the two most common mental illnesses—affect 19 million American adults annually.
- * An estimated 15% of all adults who have a mental illness in any given year also experience a co-occurring substance abuse disorder (which complicates treatment.)

Goals of Jail Diversion

- * Preventing the inappropriate incarceration of persons with mental illness and co-occurring disorders.
- * Reducing jail time for people with mental illness who may decompensate during lengthy jail confinement.
- * Linking detainees to appropriate mental health and community services following their release from jail.

Benefits of Jail Diversion

- * Reduces jail days, reduces overcrowding, reduces overcrowded court dockets.
- * Reduces jail service expenses.
- * Reconnects people to services.
- * Coordinates services – reduces waste.
- * Gives people structure, allowing them to focus on recovery.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REQUEST FOR JAIL DIVERSION SCREENING

- ❖ Law enforcement agencies may obtain a jail diversion screening for an individual pre-booking or post-booking 24 hours/7 days a week by contacting the local community mental health center (CMH).

Pre-Booking-Officer's Intervention

- * **Pre-booking** may occur at a CMHSP site during working hours; at the emergency room of the local hospital or at the jail before booking.
- * **Pre-booking** diversion candidates become voluntary consumers of mental health services, and no follow-up is required between CMHSP and law enforcement.

Post-booking jail diversion screening follows the process below:

- * **If the individual is currently an open consumer, the screening will be coordinated by the clinician working with the individual. During business hours, the clinician will meet with the inmate.**
- * **A jail diversion contact note with the CMH recommendations is submitted to the law enforcement personnel who requested the screening within three (3) days excluding Sundays and legal holidays.**
- * **If the individual is not currently a consumer of CMH: A jail diversion screening will be conducted face to face by CMH staff when requested by law enforcement.**

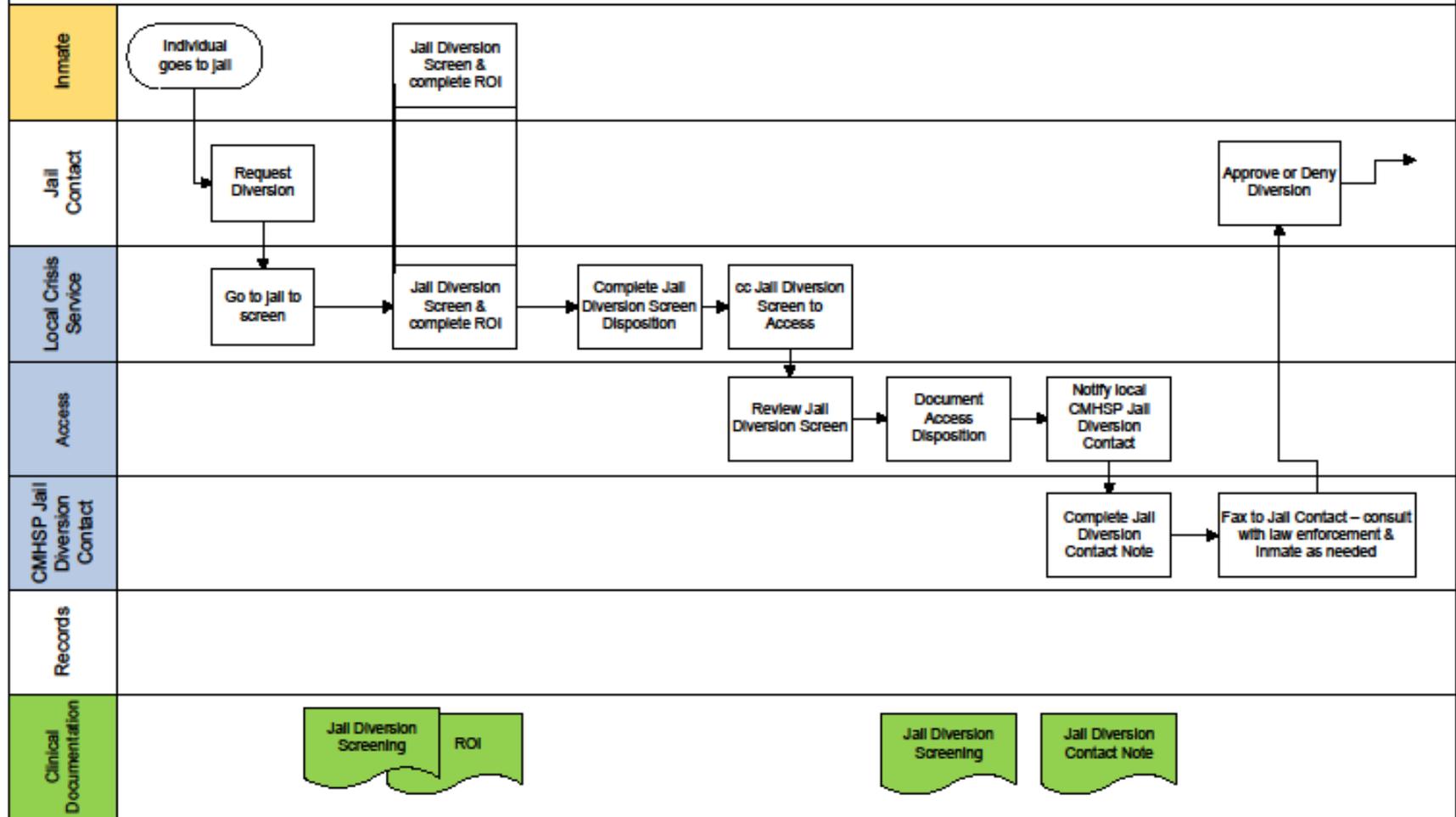
Post-booking jail diversion Cont'd

- * **NorthCare Access will review the screening for eligibility for mental health services. This process has been streamlined in the electronic medical record system and a response from CMH will be available within 48 hours after the NorthCare Access review.**
- * **A release of information from the inmate with voluntary consent to release the information from the screening and ongoing documentation related to the screening is required to allow information to be exchanged by CMHSP and the law enforcement agency.**

LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TO CMH RECOMMENDATIONS

- * Law enforcement personnel and CMH staff and the individual will consult as needed during this process.
- * Law enforcement notifies CMH as to whether or not the individual has been diverted. The contact note may be returned to CMH with additional court documents or any other form of correspondence that has the date of the decision, the decision whether or not to divert and any conditions of diversion.
- * If the individual is an open consumer, the clinician and consumer will set an appointment at the earliest time available.
- * If diversion is granted by the court and the individual being diverted is a new consumer to CMH, CMH staff and NorthCare Access will set an appointment for an assessment within 14 days of being released into the community.

NorthCare Jail Diversion Screening – Adult, New Consumer v090910



NOTES:

- 1 – For an open consumer: local crisis clinician contacts primary clinician to do contact note.
- 2 – Request Diversion: jail contact will provide clear information about defense and any priors.
- 3 – SAL Jail Diversion Screening: face to face indirect
- 4 – SAL Jail Diversion Contact Note: indirect

