

LAKESHORE BEHAVIORIAL HEALTH ALLIANCE
Community Mental Health Services of Muskegon County
Community Mental Health of Ottawa County
Lakeshore Coordinating Council for Substance Abuse Services

POLICY
No. 20-037

Prepared by: Judy Kell
Compliance Review Supervisor

Effective: May 23, 2003
Revised: January 23, 2009

SUBJECT: Adult Jail Diversion

John North, Executive Director

I. POLICY:

Lakeshore Behavioral Health Alliance will assure compliance by its affiliates with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations for jail diversion programs.

II. PURPOSE:

To establish and maintain consistent procedures for the offer and execution of Jail Diversion programs throughout the Lakeshore Behavioral Health Alliance.

III. APPLICATION:

This policy applies to all individuals served by the affiliates of the Lakeshore Behavioral Health Alliance.

IV. DEFINITIONS:

Jail Diversion: A program that diverts individuals with serious mental illness (and often co-occurring substance abuse disorder) or developmental disability in contact with the justice system from custody and/or jail and provide linkages to community based treatment and support services. The individual avoids or spends a significantly reduced time period in jail and/or lockups on the current charge. Depending on the point of contact with the justice system at which the diversion occurs, the program may be either a pre-booking or post-booking diversion program. Jail diversion programs are intended for individuals alleged to have committed misdemeanors or certain, usually non-violent, felonies and who voluntary agree to participate in the diversion programs.

Pre-booking Diversion Program: Diversion occurs at the point of the individual's contact with law enforcement officers before formal charges are brought and heavily relies on effective interactions between law enforcement officers and community mental health and substance abuse services.

Post-booking Diversion Program: Diversion occurs after the individual has been booked and is in jail, out on bond, or in court for arraignment.

V. PROCEDURE:

- A. Each affiliate adopts and adheres to the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Adult Jail Diversion Policy Practice Guidelines.
- B. The Compliance Review Staff will annually review the Jail Diversion activities of the affiliates pursuant to the LBHA Compliance Review Protocols.
- C. The Compliance Review Staff will monitor any plans of correction to improve the affiliate's jail diversion programs.

VI. REFERENCES:

MDCH Adult Jail Diversion Policy Practice Guidelines, (February 2005)