

Johnson County Juvenile Detention Center Mental Health Screening, Assessment, and Treatment Policies

I. Overview of the Pilot Project and the MAYSI 2

The purpose of the Indiana Juvenile Mental Health Screening, Assessment and Treatment Pilot Project is to ensure that youth are screened and that the appropriate mental health services are initiated in secure detention facilities. The Johnson County Juvenile Detention Center (JCJDC) is functioning as a pilot site for the project. The underlying components of the Pilot Project include: Patient-Focused, Limited Disclosure, and Collaboration. To reach the pilot project's goals, the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument Version 2 (MAYSI-2) Screening Tool has been adopted.

The MAYSI-2 is a standard and reliable self-report inventory designed to screen youths entering the detention center. Its purpose is to identify potential mental health or substance abuse issues that may need prompt attention. Answers contribute to six scales for girls and seven scales for boys. There is no "total" MAYSI-2 score. Scores on each scale are compared to cut-off-scores. Scores above a scale's cut-off, identifying a "Caution" or "Warning", indicate that the youth may require closer staff supervision, brief counseling, or referral for mental health services per facility policies and procedures. The MAYSI-2 is not intended to make psychiatric diagnoses, decisions about long-term placements, or rehabilitative decisions.

II. Administration Process for Screening Youth in Detention

All youth that are admitted to JCJDC will be screened within 24 hours of admission, unless the youth has been screened within the past fourteen (14) days. The JCJDC Assistant Director (which is the Site Coordinator for the pilot project) will be responsible for training and overseeing the administration of the MAYSI-2. The MAYSI-2 will be administered by trained detention personnel within the first 24 hours of the youth's admission to JCJDC. The Assistant Director and Case Manager are the personnel responsible for scoring and interpreting the MAYSI-2 questionnaire. The results will remain in the secure computer data base until printed by the Assistant Director or Case Manager. Scoring and interpreting results of screens administered during regular business hours will be completed within two hours of the screening. Youth screens administered after regular business hours will be scored and interpreted no later than 10:00 a.m. the following business day.

JCJDC will comply with the applicable consent guidelines as established in the protocols for the Pilot Project. (Refer to "Protocol on Appropriate Policies and Procedures in Mental Health Screening, Assessment, and Treatment of Youths In Detention.")

III. Establishment of the County Cut-off Criteria Mandating Responses by Detention

Scoring scales that have eight or nine items cannot have more than two (2) items that are unanswered, and the scales that have five or six items cannot have more than one item unanswered, or the results for that scale shall be documented as "No Score" (NS) in the invalid column.

For any scale with a "No Score," the Assistant Director and/or the Case Manager will have a face-to-face interview with the youth within 24 hours or by 10:00 a.m. the next business day to obtain the information necessary to complete the scoring for that scale and update the score.

Scores on each scale of the MAYSI-2 are compared to the State Mandatory Cut-Off scores. JCJDC adopts the State Mandatory Cut-off Criteria which requires a follow-up assessment for youth that score either;

1. Caution or Warning on the Suicide Ideation Scale, or
2. Two or more Warnings on any combination of scales, or
3. The youth is less than 12 years old

Youth that score a Caution or Warning on the Suicide Ideation or Two or more Warnings on any combination of scales, will be placed on suicide watch or behavior observation until the Assistant Director and/or Case Manager reviews and interprets the MAYSI-2 results and determines appropriate referrals. Detention staff members will obtain this information from the computer screen, and not print the result in order to maintain confidentiality.

The Assistant Director and/or Case Manager will refer all youth that only score a Caution or Warning on the Suicide Ideation Scale to JCJDC's independent counselor for a follow-up assessment. JCJDC's counselor will coordinate with the Assistant Director appropriate referrals for mental health assessment or referrals for appropriate services.

The Assistant Director and/or Case Manager will refer the youth that score two or more Warnings on any combination of scales or the youth that is under the age of twelve years old to Adult and Child Mental Health Center for a mental health assessment.

IV. Required Responses for Youth with Elevated MAYSI-2 Scores

Elevated scores indicate a youth may require closer staff supervision, additional questioning of the youth, brief counseling or referral for an assessment, or other mental health services per facility policies and procedures. The Case Manager or Assistant Director is to utilize the second screening tool when a youth scores:

1. One Warning on any scale
2. Two or more Cautions on any combination of scales
3. Above zero on the Traumatic Experiences Scale

Based on the scores and interpretation of the MAYSI-2 and the follow-up face to face interviews, the Case Manager and/or Assistant Director will make appropriate referrals for mental health assessment or referrals for appropriate services. The Assistant Director will oversee and/or approve all referrals.

In the event that the youth is released prior to the scheduling of an assessment, the detention staff member will provide the parent/guardian with the written summary results and contact information for agencies that will complete follow-up mental health assessments. Detention staff members will request parent/guardian signature on the summary sheet, file the original in the confidential medical file, and provide a copy to the parent/guardian.

In the event that a youth discloses that he/she has been a victim of abuse, neglect, and/or rape, during the administration of the MAYSI-2 or admission to JCJDC, the staff member receiving the information will notify the Assistant Director or Director. The Assistant Director and/or Director will have a face-to-face interview with the youth, make a report with the Department of Child Services and/or Law Enforcement Agency, and notify the appropriate parties.

V. Dissemination of Summary Results

Dissemination of MAYSI-2 summary results will occur based on obtaining consent from youth's parent/guardian, according to the Business Associate Agreements (BAA) established with the youth's attorney, probation, prosecutor, mental health provider, the judge, and other participating service providers, and/or through a court order.

The Case Manager will provide the summary results to probation, the prosecutor, and youth's attorney as soon as practical, but the Juvenile Magistrate will not receive a copy of the summary until the Disposition hearing, which will be distributed by probation.

Upon obtaining a summary from the mental health assessment, the Case Manager will disseminate the information according to the established limited disclosure guidelines to the identified parties on the signed consent, or according to the applicable BAA or court order.

VI. Procedures to Maintain Confidentiality of Mental Health Records

The Pilot Project protocols follow a medical records model, therefore the screening records, including the results of the MAYSI-2 will be maintained confidentially in the youth's medical record. In addition, all other mental health information and records will be maintained in the youth's medical record. These records are secured in the medical area separate from the youth's medical file and only authorized personnel have access. By signing the BAA, interested parties agree to comply with the guidelines outlined within the BAA and "Protocol on Appropriate Policies and Procedures in Mental Health Screening, Assessment, and Treatment of Youths In Detention" in regard to safeguarding the records.