

Chapter: Mental Health Title: Mental Health Program ACA: 4-JCF-4D-01 Implements: GAP.380.8505 , GAP.380.8767 , GAP.380.8771 , GAP.380.9181 , GAP.380.9188	Effective Date: 7/15/14 Page: 1 of 1 Replaces: HSP.06.01, 9/1/09
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(a) **Standard.**

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) operates a mental health program approved by the treatment director, the TJJD medical director, and the University of Texas Medical Branch – Correctional Managed Care (UTMB) youth services mental health director that complies with local, state, and federal law and addresses activities carried out by mental health professionals.

(b) **Scope of Services.**

The mental health program includes, at a minimum, the following services:

- (1) detection, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness;
- (2) crisis intervention and the management of acute psychiatric episodes;
- (3) stabilization of the mentally ill and the prevention of psychiatric deterioration;
- (4) pharmacotherapy, when necessary;
- (5) referral to an appropriate licensed mental health facility (when treatment needs exceed the treatment capability of the facility or agency); and
- (6) obtaining and documenting informed consent.

(c) **Procedures.**

- (1) A **mental health professional** provides a mental health screening to each youth upon admission to TJJD and refers the youth for mental health treatment when indicated. See [GAP.380.8505](#) and [CMS.01.13](#).
- (2) Acute psychiatric episodes and stabilization of youth with mental illness are managed through referral and placement at a TJJD Crisis Stabilization Unit. See [GAP.380.8767](#), [CMS.07.07](#), and [GAP.380.9188](#) for procedures.
- (3) Youth with mental health treatment needs that exceed TJJD's capacity are referred to local state-operated hospitals or private psychiatric facilities. See [GAP.380.8769](#) and [GAP.380.8771](#).
- (4) TJJD provides for the use of psychopharmacotherapy as an established method of treatment of emotionally disturbed adolescents for the clinical relief of symptoms that are distressing to the youth or interfering with normal functioning. See [GAP.380.9191](#).
- (5) For youth under 18 years of age, the Notice of Provision of Medical Care letter, [HLS-860](#), is sent to the parent/guardian during youth orientation to TJJD, serving as parental notification of potential referral of the youth for psychiatric services as needed. See [INS.45.01](#).
- (6) The **psychiatric provider**:
 - (A) for all youth on the psychiatric caseload:
 - (i) discusses and comes to an agreement with the youth on the planned course of treatment; and
 - (ii) documents the discussion and agreement in the Electronic Medical Record (EMR);
 - (B) for youth under 18 years of age, notifies the parent/guardian of the medication treatment plan using the Parent Notification Letter, [HLS-190a-h](#).