



KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR

State of Alabama Department of Corrections

Alabama Criminal Justice Center
301 South Ripley Street
P. O. Box 301501
Montgomery, AL 36130-1501
(334) 353-3883



JOHN Q. HAMM
COMMISSIONER

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**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION
NUMBER**

600

OPR: HEALTH SERVICES

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

I. GENERAL

This Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) Administrative Regulation (AR) establishes the policies, procedures, and responsibilities for the provision of mental health services to inmates within ADOC custody.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the ADOC to ensure the provision of mental health services to inmates within ADOC custody meets or exceeds constitutional standards, including the rights to access care, to receive care as ordered, and to professional clinical judgment by a qualified mental health professional.

III. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

- A. **Access to Care**: Care provided in a timely manner, in which a patient can be seen by a clinician, be given a professional clinical judgment, and receive care that is ordered.
- B. **Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP)**: A psychiatrist, psychologist, licensed professional counselor, mental health nurse practitioner, mental health social worker, mental health nurse, or other clinician who, by virtue of their education, credentials, and experiences, are permitted by law to evaluate and care for the mental health needs of patients.
- C. **Responsible Mental Health Authority**: The designated mental health authority responsible for mental health services at each ADOC facility, which is currently the Mental Health Site Administrator or designee.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The ADOC Director of Mental Health Services is responsible for ensuring oversight of the development of this AR.
- B. The ADOC Director of Psychiatry is responsible for ensuring this AR is consistent with relevant professional standards.
- C. The ADOC Regional Psychologists are responsible for oversight and monitoring the implementation of this AR.
- D. The Warden (or designee) at each facility is responsible for ensuring inmates at that facility have access to mental health services.
- E. The Vendor Mental Health Program Director is responsible for ensuring the provision of quality mental health services at every facility.
- F. The Vendor Mental Health Site Administrator at each facility is responsible for ensuring the delivery of constitutionally adequate quality mental health services at that facility.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. The ADOC Office of Health Services Division (OHS) will routinely monitor, provide oversight, and support, and collaborate with the Vendor on all aspects of mental health services.
- B. The OHS and Vendor leadership will meet on a schedule sufficient to provide oversight, monitoring, support, and collaboration for the provision of quality mental health services.
- C. The Vendor Mental Health Program Director will meet regularly with all Vendor Mental Health Site Administrators to review the delivery of mental health services, training, and quality improvement initiatives.
- D. The Vendor will establish and implement a Mental Health Continuous Quality Improvement Program to monitor all provisions of mental health services and provide at least quarterly comprehensive updates for OHS.
- E. The Vendor Clinical Education and Training Director will develop training on all required topics of mental health services for ADOC and Vendor staff.
- F. The Vendor Psychiatric Director will provide oversight and clinical support for facility psychiatric providers and will participate in regularly scheduled review and collaboration meetings with the ADOC Director of Psychiatry.

- G. The Warden and Vendor Mental Health Site Administrator at each facility will meet on a regular schedule to review the provision of quality mental health services.
- H. The Vendor Mental Health Site Administrator at each facility will arrange for all levels of mental health services and ensures the provision of quality, accessible, and timely mental health services for inmates.
- I. All ADOC ARs related to mental health services apply to all ADOC facilities.
- J. All other policies and procedures throughout the ADOC AR 600 series are subsumed under the authority of this AR and provide the framework for ADOC mental health services.

VI. DISPOSITION

Any forms used will be disposed of and retained according to the Departmental Records Disposition Authority (RDA).

VII. FORMS

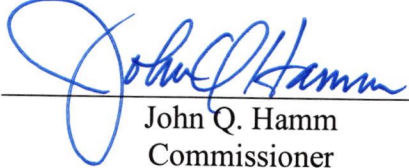
There are no forms prescribed in this AR.

VIII. SUPERSEDES

This Administrative Regulation supersedes AR 600, *Mental Health Services*, dated March 29, 2005, and any related changes.

IX. PERFORMANCE

- A. Code of Alabama 1975 § 14-1-1.1 *et seq.*
- B. *Braggs v. Hamm*, No. 2:14-cv-00601-MHT-JTA (M.D. Ala. filed June 17, 2014).
- C. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE, STANDARDS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES (2015).
- D. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE, STANDARDS FOR HEALTH SERVICES IN PRISON (2018).



John Q. Hamm
Commissioner