

Policy Number: 3200  
Policy Title: Diversion First  
Adopted: November 18, 2020

Purpose

A Diversion-Oriented System of Care, known as *Diversion First*, aims to reduce the number of people with mental illness, substance use disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities in local jails. This is accomplished through diverting individuals to needed services in circumstances where a police officer has probable cause that the individual committed a low-level crime for which the individual could be arrested. Diversion may also occur through magistrate processes, court involved cases, as well as transitions from incarceration to linkages with community services and supports.

Policy

It is the policy of the CSB to collaborate with participating organizations to provide assessment, consultation, and resources subject to availability to:

1. Collaborate with law enforcement, the judicial system, first responders, other community agencies, and citizens to redirect individuals from our judicial system into our health care system.
2. Support ongoing Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for local law enforcement personnel.
3. Develop and collaborate on Diversion First initiatives through Memorandums of Understandings and service delivery strategies with local law enforcement agencies.
4. Provide Mental Health First Aid Training to community stakeholders groups and the general population.
5. Collaborate on transfer of custody, data collection, and assessment and treatment services.

Services provided by the CSB that support the Diversion First efforts will be designed to comply with policies and procedures required by federal and state oversight agencies, county, and interagency agreements.

Approved: Sheila Jonas  
CSB Board Secretary

November 18, 2020  
Date

References

Code of Virginia § 9.1-187-90

[§ 9.1-187](#) : *Establishment of crisis intervention team programs*

References (Cont'd)

[§ 9.1-188](#) : *Crisis intervention team training*

[§ 9.1-189](#) : *Crisis intervention team protocol*

[§ 9.1-190](#) : *Crisis intervention team program assessment*

[Code of Virginia §12-35-105](#): *Rules and Regulations for Licensing Providers by The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.*

(<http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/library/developmental%20services/chapter%20105%202013.pdf>)

*Essential Elements for the Commonwealth of Virginia's Crisis Intervention Team Programs (CIT)*  
published by the Department of Criminal Justice Services and Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, updated October 1, 2014.

<http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/library/forensics/fofo%20-%20vacitessentialelements.pdf>

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