

I. **PURPOSE**

To establish guidelines for the use of the teleconference service between the Adult Detention Center (ADC) and the Fairfax Falls Church Community Services Board's (CSB) Merrifield Center Emergency Services (MCES). This service (oftentimes referred to as telepsychiatry) allows a certified pre-screener to conduct the preadmission screening evaluation, other than in person, and to prepare the report required by Va. Code Ann. §37.2-809 and 816 as part of the temporary detention order (TDO) process for inmates of the ADC. It can be utilized by the CSB Behavioral Health staff at the ADC when a video consultation with an off-site emergency services clinician is warranted. It also allows Sheriff's Office staff to have direct access to a certified pre-screener on duty to ensure that individuals experiencing a critical mental health crisis are assessed for emergency treatment.

II. **POLICY**

It is the policy of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office that access to teleconference services will be made available at the Merrifield Center 24/7. When necessary for emergency situations, the teleconference service will be utilized when the individual in crisis is at grave risk of injuring self or others and all other intervention methods by staff have been unsuccessful.

III. **DEFINITIONS**

Teleconference Service means the use of a two-way electronic video and audio communication system as authorized in Va. Code Ann. §37.2-804.1 by a certified pre-screener, who is an employee or a designee of the CSB to determine whether the inmate meets the criteria for temporary detention.

Emergency under this SOP only, is a situation in which intervention efforts by CSB Behavioral Health staff, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) members and medical staff have all been exhausted and require the support and services of a certified pre-screener. For example:

- A. As a result of mental illness, the inmate is combative, violent, uncooperative, and continues to display a destructive behavior that is at serious risk of injuring self or others.
- B. The inmate's mental health status has deteriorated causing a significant physical, psychological, or medical condition that will require hospitalization to stabilize the inmate clinically and emotionally.

Temporary Detention Order (TDO) is an involuntary detention order (Code of Virginia §37.2-809 thru 811, and 814).

- A. A magistrate may issue upon the sworn petition of any responsible person, treating physician, or upon his own motion and only after an evaluation conducted in-person or by means of a two-way electronic video and audio communication system as authorized in §37.2-804.1 by an employee or designee of the local Community Services Board, a temporary detention if it appears from all evidence readily available, including any recommendation from a physician or clinical psychologist treating the person, that there is probable cause to believe that such inmate meets all of the following criteria :

- 1. Has a mental illness, and

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2. There exists a substantial likelihood that, as a result of mental illness, the inmate will, in the near future either
 - a. cause serious physical harm to self or others as evidenced by recent behavior causing, attempting, or threatening harm and other relevant information, if any, or
 - b. suffer serious harm due to lack of capacity to protect self from harm or to provide for basic human needs, and
 3. Is in need of hospitalization or treatment, and
 4. Is unwilling or incapable of volunteering for hospitalization or treatment.
- B. A magistrate may issue a TDO without an emergency custody order proceeding and without a prior evaluation conducted in-person or by means of a two-way electronic video and audio communication system as authorized in §37.2-804.1 by an employee or designee of the CSB if one of the following criteria is met:
1. The person has been personally examined within the previous 72 hours by an employee or a designee of the local Community Services Board or,
 2. There is a significant physical, psychological, or medical risk to the person or to others associated with conducting such evaluation.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. In all cases in which the behavior and actions of the inmate in crisis rises to a level that requires immediate intervention to prevent serious bodily harm to themselves or others, a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) member will be called to the scene to assess the situation.
1. During business hours, a member of the CSB Behavioral Health staff at the ADC will be advised of the situation and will work together with the CIT member to de-escalate the situation and gain compliance from the inmate. A CIT member and a supervisor will work together for situations that occur after hours.
 2. If the inmate fails to comply, continues to deteriorate and is clearly in a state of emergency, as defined only in this SOP, ADC staff will utilize the teleconference service and follow the procedure below:
 - a. Retrieve the iPad designated for teleconference services from the location closest to the housing area of the inmate in crisis.
 - b. Contact the CSB's Merrifield Center Emergency Services (MCES) number at 703-573-5679.
 - c. The deputy making the call will give the Community Service Board (CSB) staff member who answered the phone his/her name and background of the inmate's behavior, as well as what he/she is looking for and why.

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- d. An ADC staff member will link with a certified pre-screener at the MCES through the teleconference service system by following the steps outlined in the teleconference service instructions. Instructions for proper use of the system are located next to each machine. Instructions are also included as attachment 1 to this SOP.
 - e. The certified pre-screener on duty at MCES will assess the needs of the inmate based on the information provided by the deputy, the onsite CSB Behavioral Health staff member, medical staff member, and/or inmate. The certified pre-screener will determine the most effective method of treatment and advise accordingly.
 - f. If the decision is made to expedite transfer of the inmate to more suitable housing at a mental health facility for further treatment, teleconference can be used to start the TDO process.
- B. In all cases involving an emergency, as defined only in this SOP, use of the teleconference services will be documented in a 108 report. A copy of the report will be forwarded to the MCES CIT Coordinator, Branch Chief and CSB Behavioral Health Manager at the ADC.

IV. EQUIPMENT

- A. Two iPads have been identified for use with this service. One iPad secured on a pedestal is located within the offices of the Mental Health staff (1W-37) and is to be utilized on posts 26 and 27. A mobile iPad is located on post 4 in the Classification Office and will typically be used on posts 2 and 4.
- B. Equipment inspections shall be conducted daily and noted on the appropriate post sheet by a Confinement supervisor. Issues related to the functioning of the iPads should be addressed to the IT staff. The supervisor conducting the inspection should ensure instruction packets are located next to the machine.

Stacey A. Kincaid

**STACEY A. KINCAID
SHERIFF**

**09/21/2005
DATE APPROVED**

**09/30/2015
EFFECTIVE DATE**

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