NORTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF VICTIMS AND POLICE OF POTENTIAL VIOLENT ACTS BY CONSUMERS (TARASOFF NOTIFICATION)

NUMBER: NN-RI-25

ORIGINAL DATE: 12/16/10

REVIEW/REVISE DATE: 3/17/11

APPROVAL: Rosalyne Reynolds {s} , Agency Director

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to develop a process for providing for the safety of intended victims of potentially violent acts by consumers of services.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS) to notify intended victims of potential violent acts against them by consumers and to cooperate with law enforcement agencies by notifying them of the possible violent acts of consumers in order to establish reasonable protection of the intended victim, if necessary.

III. REFERENCES

MHDS Policy # 4.007 Notification of Victims and Police of Potential Violent Acts By Consumers

IV. PROCEDURES

1. If a consumer expresses an intention to physically harm a specific victim, both the intended victim and local law enforcement shall be notified.

2. Any staff member who hears or overhears a consumer state that he or she intends to harm a specific person must immediately report this to their supervisor and primary attending physician, by completion of the work shift.

3. If it is determined that any delay of notification will likely endanger an intended victim, the immediate supervisor will immediately notify the Agency Director, or designee to inform them of the immediate threat.

4. When the likelihood of danger is highly probable, mandatory reporter (Licensed professional staff) or the informed supervisor will:

A. Contact the intended victim.
B. Notify local law enforcement in the area where the intended victim is located.
C. Contact the district attorney's office for direction on contacting the intended victim, in the event direction is needed.
D. Contact the division administrator.

5. If it is unlikely that a delay will endanger the intended victim, the mandatory reporter (Licensed professional staff) or the informed supervisor will:

A. Meet with the Agency Director or designee to decide based on the current information available, whether or not a true threat exists.
B. This decision will be made in consultation with the agency's deputy attorney general, if possible.
C. If it determined that a threat does exist, the agency administrator or designee will follow the steps outlined in # 4 above.

6. If a potential victim is notified, the attending physician must initiate a denial of rights form which will be submitted to the Commission for Mental Health and Developmental Services. The Agency Director or designee will be notified of the DOR.

A. If the consumer signs a consent to release information to the police and the intended victim, a Denial of Rights is not required

7. Prior to discharge of the consumer (POU, hospital), follow-up assessments will be completed to determine current risk of threat notification and or necessity for Tarasoff. All information will be documented in the consumer's record.