NORTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: CONSUMER ESCORT FOR COURT EVALUATION AND COMMITMENT HEARINGS

NUMBER: NN-PC-PL-11

ORIGINAL DATE: 05/08/91

REVIEW/REVISE DATE: 01/12/94, 10/22/98, 07/10/03, 05/04/06, 3/19/09, 9/20/12

APPROVAL: Cody L. Phinney, Agency Director

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I. PURPOSE

To document guidelines for the staff escorting Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS) consumers to court evaluation and commitment hearings

II. POLICY

NNAMHS will provide for the escort of consumers to court.

III. REFERENCE

1. NNAMHS Policy NN-RI-04 Restraint and Seclusion of Consumers.
2. NNAMHS Policy NN-PC-SF-04 Absent Without Leave (AWOL).
3. Nursing Department Policy 400-3 Documentation Standards for Nursing Process
4. Nursing Department 200-14 Consumer Absent Without Leave
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IV. DEFINITIONS

1. Court evaluation and commitment hearings are those held on NNAMHS grounds and off grounds at the Washoe County Courthouse, Reno, Nevada. Hereinafter, these evaluations and hearings are referred to as “court”.

V. PROCEDURE

1. Inpatients will be escorted by inpatient staff.
2. A progress note by nursing staff will be entered into the consumer's medical record every time a consumer goes to court off grounds.
3. Consumers at high risk for AWOL, and/or behaviors dangerous to self or others, may be restrained per physician’s order. The physician’s order is to be obtained and the appropriate restraints are to be applied prior to the consumer leaving the unit and/or hospital. Restraints are not removed until the consumer returns to the secured unit at the hospital.
4. Consumers who are discharged by the court due to being found non-committable will not be required to return to the unit and/or NNAMHS. However, nursing staff will encourage their cooperation to return to secure their medications and/or belongings and to cooperate with discharge planning.
5. Consumers who are committed by the court must return to the unit and/or hospital after court.
6. If at anytime any consumer elopes from the escorted group, escort staff is not to leave the group under any circumstances to pursue the consumer(s).
    a. Escort staff will report the AWOL consumer to the shift-nursing supervisor at the hospital as soon as possible. The shift supervisor will notify both the Medical Director and Nursing Director and others as delineated in the AWOL policy.
    b. The nursing supervisor will ensure the initiation of the AWOL report and enter a detailed progress note in the appropriate consumer medical record,

including a description of the consumer, the conditions under which the consumer went AWOL, the immediate reporting of the AWOL by phone to the shift supervisor, notification of the attending or OD physician, the on call administrator, Agency Director, family or significant other, and the Sparks Police Department, and requiring documentation by the staff member present.

c. Documentation of the above data will be done in the approved progress note format.

7. In the event that the number of consumers to be escorted to court becomes excessive, and/or the number of nursing staff on duty becomes marginal, other inpatient clinical staff may be requested to assist in the escort. Nursing staff will notify the Nursing Director who will collaborate with the other clinical department heads to arrange for assistance.

8. Employee will take the unit cellular phone to use in case of emergency during transport.