NORTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (NNAMHS)

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

NUMBER: NN-PC-PD-02

ORIGINAL DATE: 10/24/90

REVIEW/REVISE DATE: 01/12/94, 07/13/95, 12/01/98, 01/07/02, 06/01/06, 11/19/09, 11/15/12

APPROVAL: Cody L. Phinney, Agency Director

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I. PURPOSE

To delineate the duties, responsibilities, and scope of services rendered by the Department of Psychological Services as well as the procedure for delivery of these services at NNAMHS.

II. POLICY

NNAMHS will make a complete range of psychological services available to all consumers.

III. REFERENCES

A. NRS Chapter 641, 641.010 to 641.440 inclusive, "Psychologists"

B. Ethical Standards of the American Psychological Association www.apa.org/ethics/

IV. DEFINITIONS

A. Psychological Assessment (and or Evaluation): clinical interview and Mental Status Examination.

B. Psychological Testing: psychological testing with objective, projective, and neuropsychological screening instruments as well as a clinical interview.
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C. Brief Psychotherapy: brief interventions directed toward cognitive restructuring and reality focused instruction of behavior and consequences or supportive psychotherapy.

D. Intensive Psychotherapy: directed toward more intensive personality restructuring with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Dialectical Behavior Treatment (DBT), and other evidence-based approaches to prevent suicidal, Para suicidal or other riskful behaviors over the long term.

E. Dialectical Behavior Therapy: A therapeutic approach that strives for behavioral and emotional balance and teaches self-regulation skills, distress tolerance skills, and effective interaction with the environment.

F. Counseling: a direct approach toward acquisition of problem solving, positive communication, and alternate coping skills to eliminate ineffective coping.

G. Couples and Family Counseling: facilitation and instructions toward communication between consumers and their significant others.

H. Group psychotherapy: facilitation of group interaction understanding, guiding consumers to resolve interpersonal conflict and improve positive communication.

I. Clinical Psychologist: is one who holds a doctoral degree in clinical psychology or a closely related field from an American Psychological Association accredited graduate school or university with at least one year of post doctoral clinical experience and is licensed or eligible for licensing as a psychologist in the State of Nevada by the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners.

V. PROCEDURE

A. The services provided by this department are consistent with professionally recognized standards of clinical psychology, (state, and local) and are in accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes and Ethical Standards of the American Psychological Association.

B. The Department of Psychological Services shall consist of a sufficient number of licensed psychologists to provide services to consumers to ensure continuity of availability of well-trained psychologists. The department may include post-doctoral psychologist(s) who are working toward licensing. One psychologist will serve as Director of Psychological Services to conduct supervisory and administrative functions.

C. One psychologist is assigned to each interdisciplinary inpatient treatment teams. All psychologists are assigned to outpatient services and teams. In this role the psychologist functions to various degrees:

1. As consultant to all disciplines represented on the interdisciplinary treatment team with regard to appropriate psychological interventions based on psychological principals.
2. As providers of all psychological services including psychological testing deemed beneficial to all consumers assigned to the respective treatment services.
3. As assistants in the development of behavioral and/or time contingent treatment programs for individual consumers to eliminate destructive or self-harm behaviors.
4. As developers of behavioral monitors to track problem behaviors in consumers.
5. As individual or group psychotherapists for inpatient or outpatient consumers of NNAMHS.
6. Provide trainings and support for staff on as needed basis

D. One psychologist is assigned by the Director of Psychological Services as coordinator of testing and is responsible for tracking of testing equipments. This psychologist will ensure accurate monitoring and timely recording of psychological testing materials.

E. One psychologist is assigned to serve as Coordinator of training for post-doctoral fellowship program as well as for psychology volunteer, practicum and intern students. The training Coordinator is responsible for:

1. Communicates with the Board of Psychological Examiners to set guidelines and parameters of clinical experiences and requirements for post-doctoral fellows.
2. Creating supervision rotation schedule and keeping the flow of communication among clinical supervisors.
3. Is responsible for post-doctoral fellows, Interns and Practicum students' evaluation and communication with the Board of Psychological Examiners and their respective academic institution.

F. All consumer and/or family contacts will be documented according to recognized MHDS and NNAMHS policies and procedures.

G. PES Assignments: The Department of Psychological Services will provide full coverage to the PES. The psychologist at the PES will conduct triage services, intakes, referral and screen counseling individuals. PES psychologists will also assess consumers for potential Admission and Legal 2000 certification.

H. The Director of Psychological Services:

1. Administers the department, assigns psychologists to treatment teams and coordinator functions, as well as committee participation.
2. Supervises and evaluates the work performance of psychologists with regard to timeliness, quality, and completeness in accordance with established work performance standards and competencies.
3. Conducts quality improvement activities involving treatment documentation, monitoring of responsiveness and timeliness to psychological test requests, conducts peer reviews, and monitors caseloads as well as waiting times for services.