

<b>DATE:</b>	SEPTEMBER 19, 2019
<b>NUMBER:</b>	M.25
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	PSYCHIATRIC STABILIZATION UNITS (PSU/WPSU)
<b>RELATED SECTIONS:</b>	<a href="#">1.47</a> , SDCSD P&P SEC. 6.48

PURPOSE

To clarify the procedures for the Psychiatric Stabilization Units.

POLICY

Sworn staff shall be responsible for security of the Psychiatric Stabilization Units (PSU/WPSU) with input from the medical staff. The PSU/WPSU medical staff shall be responsible for evaluations and treatment.

PROCEDURE

I. REFERRALS FOR PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION

Any person who has pertinent information regarding the behavior of any inmate may make inmate referrals to the medical staff.

II. ADMISSION

- A. The Psychiatric Stabilization Units are located at the San Diego Central Jail (PSU) and the Las Colinas Detention and Reentry Facility (Women's Psychiatric Stabilization unit/WPSU).
- B. Inmates shall be admitted to the PSU/WPSU at the order of either staff psychiatrists, San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital (SDCPH), Emergency Psychiatric Unit (EPU) psychiatrists, or by a court order.

III. SECURITY

- A. Sworn staff shall conduct and log safety checks within 30 minutes. This check shall include housing, treatment/interview, close observation cells, and holding areas.
- B. Extraordinary incidents shall be brought to the attention of the watch commander.
- C. PSU/WPSU inmates are to be returned daily to their dormitory at 2200 hours.
- D. After lockdown, inmates may be removed from the housing unit for an acute psychiatric, medical, or security reasons and only with a deputy present.
  - 1. When security is compromised and the inmate is considered to be extremely dangerous, sworn staff may move the inmate to another housing area. If possible,

the PSU/WPSU medical supervisor or designee, or the staff psychiatrist shall be consulted first.

2. Medical staff shall notify the watch commander when the medical needs of any PSU/WPSU inmate require that he/she be housed in the medical observation area rather than PSU/WPSU.
  3. The watch commander shall be notified of any inmate movement out of the PSU/WPSU to any other area of the jail.
  4. When an inmate is discharged from the PSU/WPSU, the Jail Population Management Unit shall be consulted to determine the appropriate housing assignment for the inmate.
- E. Notify PSU/WPSU sworn and medical staff prior to removing or when returning an inmate to the housing unit.
- F. Notify PSU/WPSU sworn and medical staff in advance of any tour or visit to the PSU/WPSU to prevent disruption of activities within the housing unit.

#### IV. WRISTBANDS

- A. Inmates housed in PSU/WPSU shall wear red identification wristbands while housed in PSU/WPSU. Plastic fasteners are available for inmates who may use metal for self-injury or are allergic to metal fasteners.
- B. The red identification wristband shall be applied and removed by sworn staff whenever an inmate is transferred into or out of the unit.
- C. The red wristband shall be worn on the left wrist.
- D. The PSU/WPSU medical staff shall make no alterations to the detention wristband.
- E. If it becomes necessary to change an inmate's wristband, sworn staff shall make the change.

#### V. SECURITY BEDDING

The only bedding material inmates in psychiatric stabilization units shall possess are two safety blankets, one of which may be used as a mattress cover. Cotton/wool blankets and sheets are prohibited in psychiatric stabilization units.

#### VI. MEAL DISTRIBUTION

- A. All food and water shall be served in soft, disposable containers.
- B. Deputies and nursing staff are responsible for providing meals during normal meal times. The staff providing the meal must ensure there are no items that the inmate may use to inflict injury.

## VII. TREATMENT

- A. Application for evaluation for treatment is covered under the Welfare and Institutions Code 5150.
- B. Sworn staff may be requested to move an inmate to an isolation or seclusion cell by the PSU/WPSU charge nurse and/or psychiatrist.
- C. A time specific seclusion order by a psychiatrist is required to house an inmate in seclusion and/or restraints.
- D. Anytime the psychiatrist and/or nurse enter a seclusion cell to provide inmate care and or treatment, sworn staff shall accompany him/her and provide security.

## VIII. USE OF RESTRAINTS

- A. Sworn staff are responsible for containing the inmate while PSU/WPSU medical staff apply the restraints.
- B. If sworn staff assist with the application of restraints in collaboration with PSU/WPSU medical staff, medical staff will verify correct placement when completed.
- C. Color coded blue upper extremity and red lower extremity and waist restraints are the only type of restraints authorized for inmates housed in PSU/WPSU. These restraints are used when less restrictive forms of treatment (i.e. medication) is not sufficient or not an option.
- D. Four-point restraints shall be used only in PSU/WPSU under the supervision and direction of the psychiatrist and/or PSU/WPSU medical staff. Registered nurses may make the decision to place an inmate in four-point restraints. Registered nurses shall obtain a psychiatrist's order within an hour after placement.
- E. The restraint chair shall not be used in PSU/WPSU.
- F. When the inmate is restrained, sworn staff shall assist the nurse in range of motion and other mandatory actions.

## IX. SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

- A. In the event of a suicide attempt, Control and medical shall be notified immediately.
- B. The decision to isolate, segregate or otherwise protect an inmate that has attempted suicide shall be made by the PSU/WPSU medical/clinical staff. .

## X. CLOSE OBSERVATION/SUICIDE PRECAUTIONS

Due to the behavior of some PSU/WPSU inmates, it may be necessary to move an inmate to another cell for closer observation and/or remove certain items from them.

If the inmate has been determined by PSU/WPSU staff to require closer observation, or placed on suicide precaution and/or 1:1 observation, their cell will be inspected at least once per shift for contraband. The results of the inspection will be logged in JIMS under CELL CHECK CONDUCTED.

A. Close Observation (CO)

1. If PSU/WPSU medical staff or a psychiatrist determines an inmate requires closer observation but does not have suicidal or homicidal ideations, the inmate will be placed in a close observation cell (facility green sheets shall identify which cells in PSU/WPSU are utilized for close observation). The inmate can keep their clothes and property. An incident report shall be written documenting the need for close observation.
2. Safety checks shall be conducted at random intervals not to exceed 30 minutes between checks.
3. The inmate can be cleared from CO by PSU/WPSU medical/clinical staff.

B. Suicide Precaution (SP)

If an inmate has voiced suicidal or homicidal ideations, an assessment of the inmate will be conducted by PSU/WPSU medical staff. If the inmate has been admitted on an involuntary status, they will be placed in a close observation cell under suicide precautions. If the inmate is admitted voluntarily, and waives their rights, they will be placed in a close observation cell under suicide precautions. Voluntary admits who do not agree to the treatment plan will be discharged and placed into the Inmate Safety Program (safety cell or Enhanced Observation Housing). An incident report utilizing the event type PSU SP (psychiatric stabilization unit suicide precaution) shall be written articulating the reasons for placement on suicide precautions.

1. An inmate placed on suicide precaution shall have all of their clothing, wristband and property removed. Property shall be stored in a secure location until the inmate is cleared. For security purposes, deputies will remain with the inmate during the process to ensure all items listed above are removed.
2. All inmates placed on suicide precaution will be issued a safety mattress, safety garment, shower shoes, and two safety blankets. The above mentioned items may be removed if they are used for any other purpose than intended. Documentation in an incident report is needed if any of the items are removed.
3. Showers, dayroom, recreation and social phone calls will be offered in accordance with PSU medical staff recommendations, Title 15 guidelines and LPS regulations.
4. Hygiene items will be provided as needed by PSU/WPSU staff and immediately returned after use.
5. Inmates on suicide precautions will be offered meals in accordance with Title 15 guidelines. All food and water shall be served in soft, disposable containers. The deputy/nurse providing the meal must ensure there are no items that the inmate

may use to inflict injury such as plastic utensils, plastic coverings, or plastic bags. Disposable cardboard utensils are the only utensil authorized. Deputies shall collect all trash from meals on the proceeding welfare check.

6. Deputies will closely monitor and directly observe inmates on suicide precautions at random intervals not to exceed 15 minutes between checks. The welfare check will be documented in JIMS utilizing the SP Welfare Check event type. The description field of the entry shall include the name(s) and/or ARJIS(s) of the sworn staff conducting the check and the accurate disposition. In the event a SP Welfare Check requirement cannot be met, the deputy shall provide a documented explanation in the notes field of SP Welfare Check entry and must immediately notify the housing unit supervisor. Upon review of the JIMS area activity log, the supervisor shall make a notation in the notes field utilizing the Supervisor's Log Review event type.
7. The inmate can be cleared from suicide precautions by PSU/WPSU medical/clinical staff.

#### XI. COURT ORDERED PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATIONS

PSU/WPSU medical staff shall process 4011.6 court orders for psychiatric evaluation as soon as possible after the court order is received.

#### XII. RELEASE OF INMATES TO THE COMMUNITY

If an inmate is being released from custody and continues to exhibit behaviors potentially dangerous to self/others or reflect grave disability secondary to a mental disorder, do the following:

- A. PSU/WPSU inmate on an involuntary hold:
  1. PSU/WPSU charge nurse shall notify the watch commander of the need to transport the inmate to the EPU for further assessment and disposition. PSU/WPSU charge nurse will advise EPU of pending inmate transfer.
  2. The original copy of the involuntary hold must accompany the inmate to EPU. The PSU/WPSU charge nurse is responsible for ensuring necessary documents accompany the inmate.
- B. Inmate does not have an involuntary hold and still presents a potential danger to self/others or is gravely disabled:
  1. A Request for 72 Hour Detention (MH-302 form) and a NetRMS incident report shall be completed by sworn staff prior to transfer to EPU.
  2. Medical staff shall notify EPU of the impending transfer of the inmate.
  3. Sworn staff will transport the inmate to EPU and required documents to the psychiatrist. The deputy will remain with the released inmate until a safe and orderly transfer of services is completed and the psychiatrist on duty releases the deputy from further standby duties.