



MENTAL HEALTH STANDARD GS012

AUTHORITY

California Penal Code 13601(a)(1): The CPOST shall develop, approve, and monitor standards for the selection and training of state correctional peace officer apprentices.

California Penal Code 13601(a)(3): When developing, approving, and monitoring the standards for training of state correctional peace officer apprentices, the CPOST shall consider including additional training in the areas of mental health and rehabilitation, as well as coursework on the theory and history of corrections.

BACKGROUND

In the case of *Coleman, et al v. Brown, et al, (1995)* the Court directed California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to provide mental health services training for all personnel having regular contact with inmates and parolees.

CDCR will provide a broad range of mental health services to inmates and parolees by assessing the needs of its population and developing specialized programs of mental health care, to the extent resources are available for this purpose. Necessary and appropriate mental health services will be provided to inmates and parolees, and adequate staff and facilities will be maintained for the delivery of such services (Title 15 (3360) (a).

CDCR shall receive, evaluate, house, treat, and/or refer all inmates who, by virtue of their mental illness, are unable to appropriately function within the constraints of the usual correctional processing or program assignments (DOM 91020.1) Additionally, the Department will provide for the detection, diagnosis, treatment, and referral of inmates and parolees with mental health problems and to assist each facility's Warden during all stages of each inmate's period of incarceration (DOM 91020.2).

STANDARD

Correctional Peace Officers shall be knowledgeable of the available mental health programs and services for inmates and parolees within CDCR, and the essential role and positive impact that mental health intervention may have on the rehabilitation of inmates and the safety and security of our prisons. Additionally, Correctional Peace Officers shall: understand and act in accordance with their authority and responsibility,

be able to use effective communication, and make ethical and safe decisions while working with mentally ill inmates and parolees.

COMPONENTS OF STANDARD

1. Correctional Peace Officers will be provided training on the knowledge, skills and abilities to maintain the safety and security of all parties while working with inmates and parolees with mental health conditions.
2. Correctional Peace Officers shall understand their authority and responsibility, and the importance of custody and clinical staff teamwork to ensure proper handling, reporting, and timely referral of inmates perceived as experiencing a mental health crisis.
3. Correctional Peace Officers shall demonstrate situational and tactical awareness and the ability to respond to inmates who are experiencing a mental health crisis.
4. Correctional Peace Officers shall use effective communication skills to try to convey intended meaning and establish understanding with mentally ill inmates in order to de-escalate crisis situations.
5. Correctional Peace Officers shall abide by the accepted principles of conduct that govern decisions and actions with regard to inmates who have mental health issues (confidentiality, urgency, use of force, etc.)

CITATIONS

- 1) California Penal Code 13601(a)(1)(3)
- 2) CDCR Department Operations Manual (DOM) 91020.1, 2
- 3) Coleman, et al v. Brown, et al (1995)
- 4) California Code of Regulations, Title 15:
3360, Availability of Mental Health Services
- 5) CPOST Standard for Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (GS001)
- 6) Code of Conduct
- 7) CPOST Ethics Standard (GS009)