

Executive Directive



Stephen T. Moyer
Secretary

Title: Inmate Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention	Executive Directive Number: OPS.110.0006 Revised
Related MD Statute/Regulations: Correctional Services Article, §§2-103, Annotated Code of Maryland	Supersedes: OPS.110.0006 Dated July 18, 2014
Related ACA Standards: 4-4373; 4-ALDF-4C-32, 4-ALDF-4C-33; 2-CO-4E-01	Responsible Authority: Executive Director, Field Support Services
Related MCCS Standards: COMAR 12.14.03.03 §§F, G, O, P and R COMAR 12.14.04.02 §§A(6), (12), (13), D and F COMAR 12.14.05.02 §§A(6), (12), (13), and D	Effective Date: August 21, 2015 Number of Pages: 3

Wendell M. France
Deputy Secretary
for Operations

.01 Purpose.

This directive continues policy and assigns responsibilities for inmate self-harm and suicide prevention programs in Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Department) correctional facilities.

.02 Scope.

This directive applies to all units of the Department responsible for the care, custody, and control of individuals housed in a Department correctional facility.

.03 Policy.

- A. The Department intends to minimize opportunities for inmate self-harm and suicide.
- B. The Department considers self-harm and suicide prevention a cooperative effort between all Department employees, including all contractual employees who have responsibility for the care, custody, and control of individuals housed in a Department correctional facility.

.04 Definitions.

- A. In this directive, the following terms have the meanings indicated.
- B. Terms Defined.
 - (1) “Correctional facility has the meaning stated in Correctional Services Article, §1-101, Annotated Code of Maryland and includes a detention facility.
 - (2) “Managing official” has the meaning stated in Correctional Services Article, §1-101, Annotated Code of Maryland.
 - (3) “Self-harm” means that an individual exhibits deliberate behavior which will result in physical injury, but is not likely to result in death.

- (4) “Suicidal” means an individual who expresses an intent or exhibits behavior that may or may not be intended to cause death, but could result in death.

.05 Responsibility/Procedures.

A. The Department Director of Mental Health, or a designee, is responsible for:

- (1) Researching, developing, implementing, documenting, and maintaining an Operations inmate self-harm and suicide prevention program that includes, but may not be limited to, provisions for:
 - (a) Intake, screening, identification, and supervision of an inmate who may be at risk for suicide or potential self-harm;
 - (b) Staff and inmate critical incident debriefing that addresses:
 - (i) Managing suicidal incidents; and
 - (ii) Suicide watch;
 - (c) Review of critical incidents, such as death of an inmate or staff member, by administrative, security, and health services staff;
 - (d) Annual training of staff responsible for inmate supervision that includes, but may not be limited to, the following:
 - (i) Identifying warning signs and symptoms of impending suicidal behavior;
 - (ii) Understanding demographic and cultural parameters of suicidal behavior including incidence and variations in precipitating factors;
 - (iii) Responding to an inmate who may be at risk for suicide or potential self-harm;
 - (iv) Correctional staff and medical staff communication;
 - (v) Using referral procedures;
 - (vi) Housing observation and suicide watch procedures; and
 - (vii) Follow-up monitoring of an inmate who attempted suicide, expressed suicidal ideation, or engaged in deliberate self-harm.
- (2) Ensuring that each managing official, or a designee, with responsibility for a correctional facility:
 - (a) Implements and maintains, to the degree possible, uniform procedures to comply with program requirements established by the Director of Mental Health, or a designee;
 - (b) Establishes appropriate physical environments at the respective facility including, but not limited to, safe cells to support implementation of programs and practices authorized under this directive;

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- (c) Consults with the Director, Mental Health, or a designee, to enlist inmates to observe and report self-harm and suicidal behavior by:
 - (i) Identifying, screening, and selecting inmates to be observers;
 - (ii) Training selected inmate observers; and
 - (iii) Establishing procedures for the use of inmate observers; and
 - (d) Provides security garments for an inmate that promote safety and prevent humiliating or degrading the inmate.
 - (3) When requested, reporting program status and performance to the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Secretary).
- B. Correctional facility procedures established by a managing official under the authority of this directive shall be:
- (1) In compliance with requirements established by the Director of Mental Health, or a designee;
 - (2) Reviewed annually and, if appropriate, updated and signed by the managing official, or a designee; and
 - (3) In accordance with relevant law and professional standards.

.06 Attachment(s).

There are no attachments to this directive.

.07 History.

- A. This Directive replaces OPS.110.0006 — Inmate Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention, dated July 18, 2014.
- B. This Directive supersedes provisions of any other prior existing Department or unit communication with which it may be in conflict.

.08 Operations Distribution.

A
L
S Staff responsible for inmate supervision
Case Management
Medical and Mental Health Staff