


GUAM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER		
<b>TITLE:</b> Behavioral Health Care for Members of the Armed Forces and Veterans	<b>POLICY NO:</b> CL- AP-17	Page 1 of 2
<b>RESPONSIBILITY:</b> Clinical Division		
<b>APPROVED BY:</b>  THERESA C. ARRIOLA, DIRECTOR	<b>DATE OF ORIGINAL APPROVAL:</b> 7/28/2021	<b>DATE REVIEWED/REVISED:</b>

**PURPOSE:**

To provide direction to staff and ensure that intensive behavioral health services are provided to members of the US Armed forces and Veterans consistent with the minimum clinical guidelines provided by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). This policy is in compliance with Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic standard 4.k.

**POLICY:**

- A. GBHWC shall provide recovery oriented mental health services to military service men and veterans if requested and that care offered is consistent with clinical health guidelines contained in the Uniform Mental Health Services handbook of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).
- B. Intake staff will ask all new consumers whether they have served in the U.S. Military during screening and intake assessment. Consumers affirming current military service will be offered assistance in the following manner:
  1. Active Duty Service Members (ADSM) must use their servicing Military Treatment Facility, and their MTF Primary Care Managers (PCMs) are contacted by Guam Behavioral Health & Wellness Center regarding referrals outside the MTF
  2. ADSMs and activated Reserve Component (Guard/Reserve) members who are on Guam are authorized to seek services at Guam Behavioral Health & Wellness Center that their Military Treatment Facility can't provide.
  3. Members of the Selected Reserves, not on Active Duty (AD) orders, are eligible for TRICARE Reserve Select and can schedule an appointment with any TRICARE.
- C. The assigned lead provider or social worker shall offer assistance to consumers affirming former military service (veterans) to enroll in VHA for the delivery of health and behavioral health services.
  1. GBHWC shall provide the appropriate behavioral health services to those veterans and active duty service members who decline or are ineligible for VHA services.
- D. Assigned Lead Providers of military service men and veterans with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder shall ensure that there is integration and coordination of care for behavioral health conditions and other components of health care for all veterans. Lead providers must ensure the following:
  1. Regular contact is maintained with the veteran as clinically indicated as long as ongoing care is required.
  2. Psychiatric medication reconciliation is conducted on a regular basis.

3. Coordinates and develop a comprehensive recovery oriented treatment plan with the input of the consumer or (and, when appropriate, the family with the veteran's consent when the veteran possesses adequate decision-making capacity or with the veteran's surrogate decision-makers consent when the veteran does not have adequate decision-making capacity).
  4. Implementation of treatment plan is monitored and progress documented, outcomes achieved and the goals attained. Treatment plan is reviewed and revised in accordance with *CL-AP- 04 treatment plan policy*.
  5. For veterans who are determined to lack capacity, the provider must identify the authorized surrogate and document the surrogate's verbal consent to the treatment plan.
  6. Communicates with the veteran (and the veteran's authorized surrogate or family or friends when appropriate and when veterans with adequate decision-making capacity consent) about the treatment plan, and for addressing any of the veteran's problems or concerns about their care. For veterans who are at high risk of losing decision-making capacity, such as those with a diagnosis of schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder, such communications need to include discussions regarding future behavioral health care treatment.
- E. All staff receives cultural competency training on issues of race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, and gender identity as well as military and veterans' culture in order to be able to understand the unique experiences contributions of those who have served the country.

#### **DEFINITION**

Recovery Oriented Care - Recovery is defined as "a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.