

Mental Health Treatment Services within the Virginia Department of Corrections

**Presentation to the Joint Subcommittee to Study the
Commonwealth's Program for Prisoner Reentry to Society**

September 12, 2005

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**Mental Health Services
within Department of Corrections'
Institutions**

Prevalence and Providers

- Approximately 15% of the offender population requires on-going mental health services
- Within the DOC, these services are provided by Qualified Mental Health Professionals (QMHPs), i.e., psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers and MHU nurses

Continuum of Services

A continuum of services has been developed to meet the mental health treatment needs of offenders while incarcerated and to assist in planning for their release from the DOC. Services include:

- Acute Care
- Residential Treatment
- Outpatient Services
- Residential Treatment for Sex Offenders

Acute Care Mental Health Services

Provided to offenders who are the most seriously mentally ill. These acute care units are located at:

Marion Correctional Treatment Center (males)

120 beds - licensed by DMHMRSAS and accredited by JCAHO

Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women

22 beds - licensed by DMHMRSAS

Involuntary Admission and Treatment

- Section 53.1-40.1 through 40.10 of the Code of Virginia specifically addresses the involuntary admission and treatment of acutely mentally ill offenders within the Department of Corrections
- Such offenders go through a judicial commitment procedure, similar to that in the community, so that they can be transferred to and treated at MCTC or FCCW

Residential Mental Health Services

- Provides treatment and other services in a structured setting to offenders who have mental disorders, often chronic
- The residents do not require an acute care setting but, as a result of their mental disorder, have difficulty adjusting to a General Population setting

Residential Mental Health Services

Provided in designated units at:

- Marion Correctional Treatment Center
- Greenville Correctional Center
- Brunswick Correctional Center
- Powhatan Correctional Center
- Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women

All units are licensed by DMHMRSAS

Outpatient Mental Health Services

- Provided to offenders in General Population and Special Housing Units at every major institution. Services include crisis intervention, assessment, individual contacts and psychoeducational and therapeutic groups
- Psychiatric services are available at all major facilities

Sex Offender Residential Treatment (SORT) Program

- 78 beds
- Located at Brunswick Correctional Center
- For male sex offenders considered as moderate to high risk to re-offend and who are within 18-36 months of their expected release date
- Inmates undergo an extensive assessment process upon entry into the program and are then provided treatment services based on their needs

Sex Offender Residential Treatment (SORT) Program

- Funded in 1999 as part of the legislation enacting the civil commitment of Sexually Violent Predators
- Licensed by DMHMRSAS

Virginia Department of Corrections MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

ACUTE CARE

Fluvanna Correctional
Center for Women

22 Beds

Marion Correctional
Treatment Center

120 Beds

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT

Brunswick
Correctional Center

94 Beds

Fluvanna Correctional
Center for Women

69 Beds

Greensville
Correctional Center

80 Beds

Marion Correctional
Treatment Center

71 Beds

Powhatan
Correctional Center

12 Beds

SORT Program Brunswick
Correctional Center

78 Beds

OUTPATIENT

Western Region

Augusta
Bland
Keen Mountain
Red Onion
Wallens Ridge

Central Region

Buckingham
Coffeewood
Deep Meadow
Dillwyn
Fluvanna CCW
Haynesville
Lunenburg
Nottoway
Powhatan Complex
Virginia CCW

Eastern Region

Brunswick
Deerfield
Greensville
Indian Creek
Lawrenceville
Mecklenburg
Southampton
St. Brides
Sussex I
Sussex II

MENTAL HEALTH CLASSIFICATION CODES

- Initial assignment at Reception and Classification Centers
- When inmate's mental status or treatment needs change
- At Annual Progress Review
- When eligible for release

MENTAL HEALTH CLASSIFICATION CODES

MH-4 SEVERE IMPAIRMENT

Inmate is seriously mentally ill and a danger to self or others or is unable to care for self. Acute care treatment setting required.

MH-3 MODERATE IMPAIRMENT

Inmate has chronic mental health problems and has difficulty maintaining adjustment in general population May move in and out of mental health units

MH-2 MILD IMPAIRMENT

Inmate has on-going mental health issues with mild but stable symptoms and can typically function satisfactorily in a general population setting.

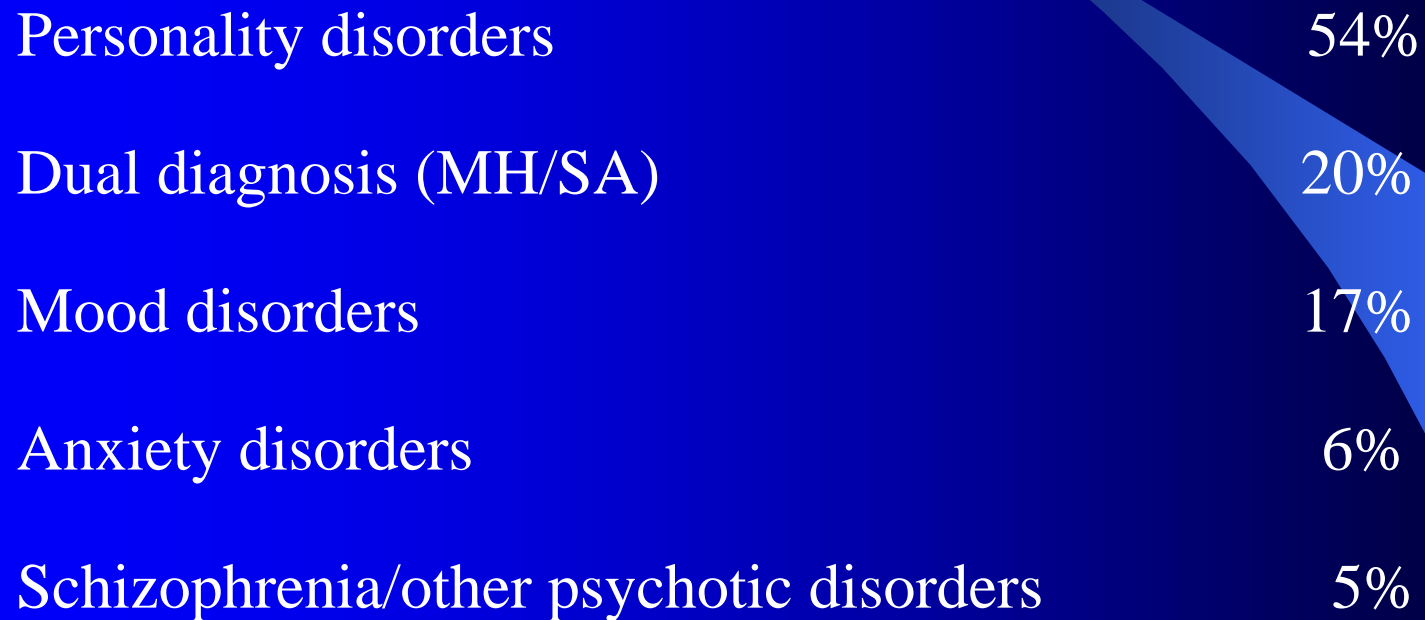
MENTAL HEALTH CLASSIFICATION CODES

MH-1 MINIMAL IMPAIRMENT

Inmate doesn't require treatment but has history of self-injurious or suicidal behavior and/or mental health treatment within the past two years. Inmate functions satisfactorily in a general population setting and monitoring by a QMHP is typically not necessary. The inmate is not prescribed psychotropic medication.

MH-0 NO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES NEEDS

DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORIES and ESTIMATED PREVALANCE



DISCHARGE PLANNING

12,546 offenders were released from DOC institutions between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005

Planning for release begins at the institution with the offender's Case Management Counselor and/or QMHP

Offenders who require acute care treatment are committed to Central State Hospital

For offenders who do not require acute care services, contacts are made with community treatment providers to make appointments for follow-up services

DISCHARGE PLANNING (cont'd)

- Upon discharge, psychotropic medications are provided to the offender and a follow-up prescription to the supervising P & P District
- For offenders receiving mental health services, a discharge summary is forwarded by the QMHP to the supervising District and to the DOC Mental Health Clinical Supervisor

Treatment Services
within Department of Corrections'
Community Corrections

Probation and Parole Services

- There are nearly 49,000 probationers and parolees
- At least 7% are in need of mental health services
- Approximately 41% are in need of substance abuse education or treatment

Substance Abuse Services

7 Residential Service Contractors

27 Private Non-Residential Contractors

55 Memoranda of Agreements with Community
Service Boards

Some psychoeducational services provided
by Certified Substance Abuse Counselors

Sex Offender Services

9 Pilot Sex Offender Containment Sites

32 Private Sex Offender Treatment
Contractors

6 Polygraph Contractors

P & P staff supervise Sexually Violent
Predators (SVP) placed on Conditional
Release

Community-Based Treatment for Offenders

- CSBs/BHAs are the primary local public mental health and substance abuse treatment providers in Virginia
- 31 CSBs have 49 existing MOAs with Community Corrections to provide substance abuse treatment and other services
- Private and nonprofit providers are also a strong component of the treatment network
- DOC Community Corrections and local community corrections programs have contracted services with public and private providers

Community-Based Treatment for Offenders (cont'd)

Community Corrections mental health and substance abuse treatment programs include:

- Day Reporting Programs for those with substance abuse disorders
- Therapeutic Community programs in jails
- Residential substance abuse transitional programs

VASAVOR (Virginia Serious and Violent Offender Reentry) Initiative

- For offenders with designated offenses, under supervision and with a home plan
- Discharging to Fairfax or Newport News
- Within 45 days of release

DOC has contractual agreement with Fairfax-Falls Church CSB for mental health and substance abuse treatment services

VASAVOR Initiative (cont'd)

– Other partners are:

- Fairfax Sheriff's Office
- Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources
- Northern Virginia Work Force Investment Board
- District 29 P & P

Replicated in Newport News

- Partners include:
- Step Up, Inc.
- Hampton-Newport News CSB
- Newport News City Sheriff's Office
- District 19 P & P

Substance abuse and sex offender treatment services provided on-site in both districts

MOU between DOC, CSBs and DMHMRSAS

- **Mandated by SJR 97/HJR 142 (2002)**
- **The DOC and DMHMRSAS were directed to:**
 - Examine ways to ensure offenders released from State correctional facilities have access to appropriate medications and that
 - these medications are managed while the offender is in the community
 - In addition, the two Departments were to include a memorandum of agreement to ensure continuity of care for offenders upon their release from prison

DOC/CSB/DMHMRSAS MOU

- Current status: the DOC, DMHMRSAS and each CSB have signed the MOU
- Work Group is developing all of the elements of the MOU
- *Main Provisions:*
 - DOC begins discharge planning for specialized services needs on admission to the DOC
 - DOC to implement on-going risk/needs assessment to identify high risk offenders and their treatment needs and to assist in release planning

DOC/CSB/DMHMRSAS MOU

(cont'd)

- DOC to enhance process for inmate application for SSI/Medicaid and other benefits
- Coordinate treatment planning and information exchange with CSBs/local health agencies/community practitioners, in a timely manner
- Designate local Community Corrections liaison to mental health and substance abuse treatment providers (CSBs, DMHMRSAS, others)
- 90 day advance notice of release to Community Corrections, local treatment providers, DRS, DSS, etc.

Contact Information

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