



Mental Health Screening of Jail Inmates (Ch 836, Item 70 J.2. & J.3.)

Robyn de Socio, Executive Secretary
Compensation Board
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Ch 836, Item 70 – Mental Illness Report

J.1. The Compensation Board shall provide an annual report on the number and diagnoses of inmates with mental illnesses in local and regional jails, the treatment services provided, and expenditures on jail mental health programs. The report shall be prepared in cooperation with the Virginia Sheriffs Association, the Virginia Association of Regional Jails, the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards, and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and shall be coordinated with the data submissions required for the annual jail cost report. Copies of this report shall be provided by November 1 of each year to the Governor, Director, Department of Planning and Budget, and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees.

- Annual Report on Mental Illness in Jails to Governor and Chairmen of House Appropriation and Senate Finance Committees, November 1
- Survey of all local and regional jails to identify assessment, diagnoses, and treatment of inmates with mental illness incarcerated in jails
- All individual assessment, diagnosis and treatment data collected for June of each year
- Fiscal Year data collected for medication costs and mental illness treatment costs

Ch 836, Item 70 – Screening Instrument

J.2. Whenever a person is admitted to a local or regional correctional facility, the staff of the facility shall screen such person for mental illness using a scientifically validated instrument. The Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services shall designate the instrument to be used for the screenings and such instrument shall be capable of being administered by an employee of the local or regional correctional facility, other than a health care provider, provided that such employee is trained in the administration of such instrument.

- In 2016, 51 of 60 jails reported they screen all inmates at booking; 4 jails screen some inmates at booking; 3 jails do not screen inmates at booking (1 reported screening through CSB)

- In 2016, Screenings performed by:
 - 40% - Jail Officers
 - 17% - Jail Mental Health Staff
 - 43% - Other Mental Health Professionals

- In 2016, 41 jails used a validated screening instrument; 19 jails did not use a validated screening instrument, or did not respond

Ch 836, Item 70 – Screening Instrument

- DBHDS has designated two validated screening instruments:
 - Brief Jail Mental Health Screen
 - Correctional Mental Health Screen for Women
- Screening instruments already designated for use in six jails awarded funding under DCJS Jail Mental Health pilot program
- In 2016, 29 (50%) jails reported using the Brief Jail Mental Health Screen; 12 jails reported using another validated instrument or method of screening
- Preliminary notice provided to sheriffs and regional jails immediately upon adjournment in February, 2017; additional notice provided at annual budget hearing, and Virginia Sheriffs' Institute annual conference in April, 2017
- DBHDS communication to jails this week (June, 2017)
- DBHDS has developed a training module for jails to administer screening instruments – delivery via web-based training and in-person this summer and fall

Ch 836, Item 70 – Screening Instrument

Compliance Methods

- Expansion of questions regarding screening in annual mental illness in jails survey from comprehensiveness of screening to detailed figures utilizing screening tools
- Exploring funding options to enable the Board to modify the Local Inmate Data System (LIDS) to begin gathering data regarding screenings and assessments daily
- Records review in annual and bi-annual compliance audits completed by Compensation Board staff when reviewing data entered into LIDS

Ch 836, Item 70 – Assessment Staffing

J.3. The Compensation Board shall review its jail staffing standards with respect to the provision of mental health and medical treatment in jails. This review shall include an evaluation of the costs and benefits of requiring in all jails an assessment within 72 hours of the time of the initial screening, by qualified mental health professionals, of the need for mental health services in all cases where the initial screening indicates the person may have a mental illness. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services shall provide all necessary assistance to the Compensation Board in this evaluation. The Compensation Board shall provide a report, including any recommendations for updating the jail staffing standards and associated costs, to the Secretaries of Administration, Public Safety and Homeland Security, and Health and Human Resources, and to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by October 1, 2017.

- Current Compensation Board staffing standards address Commonwealth's responsibility toward staffing for:
 - Jail Officers for security purposes
 - Cooks
 - Administrative support
 - Partially-funded Medical, Classification, Treatment, Records positions (does not include mental health)

Ch 836, Item 70 – Assessment Staffing

- In 2016, 44 jails reported they conduct assessments on all inmates receiving a positive screening for mental illness; 13 jails conduct assessments only for acute symptoms; 1 jail reported it does not conduct assessments
- In 2016, Assessments performed by:
 - 39% - Community Services Boards
 - 19% - Jail Mental Health Staff
 - 42% - Other Mental Health Professionals
- Updated standard to consider staffing needs to conduct assessments within 72 hours based upon:
 - Group of representatives of Virginia Sheriffs' Association and Virginia Association of Regional Jails, Compensation Board staff; DBHDS staff, others as needed
 - Data obtained in 2017 mental illness in jails survey regarding screenings and assessments
 - Report to Governor's Cabinet Secretaries and Chairmen of House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees



Thank You

- Questions?
- Contact:

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