



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS & PROBATION

## ***Service Interpretive Guidelines*** **Co-Occurring Evaluation**

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### **SERVICE DEFINITION:**

A Co-Occurring Evaluation is a clinical, strengths-based evaluation of a youth experiencing co-occurring substance use and mental health symptoms. The Co-Occurring Evaluation is a process of gathering information to assess youth functioning and needs based on identification of the presenting problem, evaluation of mental status, evaluation of substance use, formulation of a diagnostic impression (as applicable) and recommendation for treatment services/strategies.

The Co-Occurring Evaluation will include a mental health diagnostic impression (as applicable), a substance use diagnostic impression (as applicable), history of mental health symptoms, trauma history/symptoms, criminogenic risk, risk of harm to self and/or others, the youth's perception of the situation and collateral information. Based on the evaluation, recommendations are provided and justified for appropriate behavioral health services and treatment.

### **TARGET POPULATION:**

Youth identified through screenings/risk assessments to have a need for further evaluation due to mental health **and** substance use symptoms.

### **PROBATION/PROBLEM SOLVING COURT OFFICER (OFFICER) RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Officer shall work with the youth and family to determine a Registered Service Provider (RSP) to conduct the evaluation.
- Officer will inform the RSP the reason for the referral for the evaluation (use of substances, mental health symptoms, not sleeping, anger outburst, suicidal ideations etc.).
- Officer will **verbally communicate** with the RSP to provide all collateral information (assessments) to assist with the completion of the evaluation.
- Officer will verbally communicate with the RSP if the evaluation is a 21 or 30 day evaluation. The RSP must be made aware of the timeline for the court.
- Officer will utilize the evaluation worksheets to ensure the following:
  1. All evaluations should lead to an applicable diagnosis.
  2. All evaluations should lead to a clinical recommendation for a **treatment** service, which could include a result of no clinical recommendation
  3. Evaluations should NOT recommend non-treatment, out-of-home placement or detention and evaluations should NOT identify or refer to particular agencies offering the recommended service

- Officer will utilize the RSP's clinical recommendations to assist in developing the individualized success plan.
- Officer will complete engagements outlining information related to the evaluation.