



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS & PROBATION

## ***Service Interpretive Guidelines*** **Enhanced Mental Health Evaluation**

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### **SERVICE DEFINITION:**

An Enhanced Mental Health Evaluation is a clinical, strengths-based evaluation of a youth experiencing mental health symptoms. The Mental Health Evaluation is a process of gathering information to assess the youth's functioning and needs based on identification of the presenting problem, evaluation of mental status, formulation of a diagnostic impression (as applicable) and recommendation for treatment services/strategies.

An Enhanced Mental Health Evaluation will include a mental health diagnostic impression (as applicable), history of mental health symptoms, trauma history/symptoms, criminogenic risk, risk of harm to self and/or others, the individual's perception of the situation and collateral information. Based on the evaluation, recommendations are provided and justified for appropriate behavioral health services and treatment. The Mental Health Evaluation may include a recommendation for further psychological testing, if supported.

### **TARGET POPULATION:**

Youth identified through screenings/risk assessments to have a need for further evaluation due to mental health 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.