



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS & PROBATION

## ***Service Interpretive Guidelines*** **Psychological Evaluation**

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### **SERVICE DEFINITION:**

A Psychological Evaluation consists of a biopsychosocial evaluation and psychological testing. Standardized testing is utilized to assess an youth's psychological or cognitive functioning.

In most cases, a mental health, substance use or co-occurring evaluation is sufficient to diagnose, recommend services and provide sufficient information to begin treatment; when initial evaluations identify the need for additional, in-depth evaluation, a Psychological Evaluation may be appropriate. The need for, and extent of, the psychological testing must be identified in the initial evaluation and indicate specific testing needs/requirements.

Psychological testing may be completed to answer cognitive functioning questions, to assist with necessary differential diagnosis issues and/or to help resolve specific treatment planning concerns. It also may occur again later in treatment if the youth's condition has not progressed since the initial treatment plan and there is no clear explanation for the lack of improvement.

### **TARGET POPULATION:**

Youth identified through screenings/risk assessments to have a need for further evaluation due to any unmet psychological needs that cannot be determined by a substance use, mental health or co-occurring evaluation.

This service would typically assist in addressing youth with high risk and/or need in Substance Use (SU), Personality/Behavior/Attitudes /Orientation and/or Peer Relations.

### **PROBATION/PROBLEMSOLVING COURT OFFICER (OFFICER) RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Officer would utilized this service for the following reasons:
  - If there are conflicting diagnoses
  - If the youth is not stabilized in their current treatment
  - To determine if youth is competent
  - If there is an elevated risk for violent behavior
  - If they were amenable to treatment
- Officer shall work with the youth and family to determine a Registered Service Provider (RSP) to conduct the evaluation.

- Officer will **verbally communicate** with the RSP to provide all collateral information to assist with the completion of the evaluation.
- Officer will inform the RSP the reason for the referral for the evaluation (use of substances, mental health symptoms, IQ testing, 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 obtain court approval as needed.
- 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 communicate with the provider regarding the psychological testing and the integration of recommendations to the court. This discussion must be incorporated into a report to the court.
- 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.

Referral Questions may include:

- Is the youth's I.Q. impeding their completion of probation?
- Does the youth have multiple conflicting diagnoses that need to be clarified?
- Is the youth's mental health symptoms impeding their completion of probation?