

<p align="center"><b>GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE</b></p>	<p align="center">Transmittal # 18-3</p>	<p align="center">Policy # 12.3</p>
<p>Applicability:  <input type="checkbox"/> All DJJ Staff  <input type="checkbox"/> Administration  <input type="checkbox"/> Community Services  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secure Facilities</p>	<p>Related Standards &amp; References:  O.C.G.A. §§ 49-4A-7, 49-4A-8  DJJ 12.1  ACA Standards: 4-JCF-5C-01, 3-JDF-5B-03</p>	
<p>Chapter 12: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES</p>	<p>Effective Date: 2/28/18  Scheduled Review Date: 2/28/19</p>	
<p>Subject: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTONOMY</p>	<p>Replaces: 9/20/16  APPROVED:</p>	
<p>Attachments:  None</p>	<p align="center">   <hr/> Avery D. Niles, Commissioner </p>	

**I. POLICY:**

The Office of Behavioral Health Services shall ensure that quality behavioral health services are provided to youth housed in all DJJ secure facilities. All clinical decisions and actions regarding behavioral health services shall be the sole province of the Designated Responsible Clinician and Designated Mental Health Authority and this shall not be compromised for security reasons. Behavioral health staff shall comply with all security regulations.

**II. DEFINITIONS:**

**Behavioral Health Services:** Programs and services required to meet the mental health needs of youth including individual, group, and family counseling, crisis intervention, screening, assessment and evaluation, substance abuse treatment, psychological services, psychiatric services, treatment planning, and other specialized behavioral health services.

**Behavioral Health Staff:** At a minimum, Social Service Provider, Juvenile Detention Counselors, Sex Offender Treatment Specialist, Sex Offender Treatment Supervisor, Institutional Program Directors, Social Services Coordinator, Psychologist, Psychiatrist, nurse trained in mental health duties, Professional Social Service Worker, Social Service Worker, substance use treatment staff, and master’s and doctoral level mental health students, and other staff with the education, training, and experience adequate to perform the duties required in accordance with professional standards, as authorized by the Designated Mental Health Authority.

**Designated Mental Health Authority (DMHA):** The individual responsible for the facility’s behavioral health services such as ensuring the quality and accessibility of all behavioral health services provided to juveniles. The designated mental health authority must be a mental health professional with at least a master’s degree in a mental health related field.

**Designated Responsible Clinician (DRC):** The individual responsible for the clinical quality of the facility’s behavioral health services and who makes final decisions on matters

Chapter	Subject	Policy #	Page
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTONOMY	12.3	2 of 2

of clinical judgment. The Designated Responsible Clinician must be a licensed mental health professional with at least a master's degree in a mental health related field.

### **III. PROCEDURES:**

- A. Each facility will have a Designated Responsible Clinician (DRC) and a Designated Mental Health Authority (DMHA) identified in accordance with DJJ 12.1, Behavioral Health Service Delivery System.
- B. All decisions related to the delivery of, access to, or the quality of behavioral health services, such as assessment and diagnostic services, will be made by qualified mental health staff (e.g., Psychiatrist, Psychologist, Social Service Provider, etc.) in concurrence with the DMHA and DRC.
- C. The DMHA is responsible for all decisions regarding the type of treatment, the need for a youth to remain at a facility for further assessment, evaluation or treatment, and the need for transfer to outside services. Youth who have an active Behavioral Health Placement Review Panel alert, who require Level 3 (constant) observation, or have high mental health needs should not be considered for transfer except upon advice of the DMHA.
- D. All matters of clinical judgment will be the sole province of the DRC, DMHA, and behavioral health staff.
- E. Non-clinical personnel will not make decisions on matters requiring clinical judgment or interfere in clinical decisions.
- F. The Director of Behavioral Health Services will have final clinical decision-making authority regarding behavioral health services.
- G. For conflicts between security concerns and clinical management of the youth that cannot be resolved at the local level, the DMHA and Director of Behavioral Health Services (or designee) will work in conjunction with the facility Director to ensure that the youth's needs are met within security constraints. The Director of Behavioral Health Services may involve the DJJ Medical Director, District Director, Regional Administrators from other areas, Assistant Deputy Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of Support Services, as necessary.

### **IV. LOCAL OPERATING PROCEDURES REQUIRED: NO**