


Screening for Substance Use Disorder within AHS Programs

Policy Number: 1.12	Effective Date: 1/1/2019	Original Policy Adopted Date: 9/16/14
Authorizing Signature: 	Date Signed: 12-11-18	

Purpose:

To identify Agency of Human Services (AHS) clients at risk for substance use disorder in order to intervene early and coordinate services within AHS. To ensure that all relevant Agency of Human Services (AHS) programs have a systematized method of screening clients for substance use disorder on entry or exit of the AHS program or service, and have staff and managers trained in evidence-based substance use disorder screening techniques.

This policy shall not be used as a means of excluding clients from programs or services. Rather, the purpose is to screen AHS customers in order to provide them with appropriate care and resources and to improve the system of care within AHS.

Background:

Within AHS, every department interacts with the substance use disorder treatment system in some capacity. This is particularly evident when considering the significant correlation between substance use and mental health. The Secretary identified a need for departments to be integrated and collaborative in their efforts to maximize limited resources and improve quality of care for AHS clients.

Definition:

Screening: An evidence-based, preliminary and systematic procedure to evaluate the likelihood that a person has a substance use disorder or mental health condition¹.

Assessment: After a client has been screened the procedures by which a licensed or otherwise approved counselor identifies and evaluates an individual’s strengths, weaknesses, problems and needs for the development of a treatment plan.

Scope:

The overall responsibility for screening and referring clients for substance use disorder rests primarily with AHS departments and their programs. To ensure a consistent and

¹ It is recommended that in addition to the substance use disorder screen, programs consider using evidence-based mental health tool. These can be identified with the assistance of the Department of Mental Health.

comprehensive approach, the Secretary's Office shall provide oversight and direction in consultation with the Department of Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs.

Guidelines

AHS will screen all clients entering or exiting identified AHS programs for substance use disorder and refer them to treatment or services.

AHS departments and their programs are responsible for training their staff in evidence-based screening practices. In turn, each identified program is responsible for establishing a protocol that directs all clients through screening within their intake or exit process (or another specified point of contact) along with referring clients to treatment and services as identified.

Enforcement:

The Secretary's Office may initiate reviews, assessments, or other means to ensure that this policy is being followed.

Appendix: