

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Detentions Bureau Policies and Procedures

TITLE: ADMISSION, EVALUATION AND STABILIZATION CENTER Q-100

EFFECTIVE:	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
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APPROVED BY: Detentions Bureau Chief Deputy Cindy Cisneros

REFERENCE: DBPPM C-200, C-450, K-100

POLICY

The Kern County Sheriff's Office operates an Admission, Evaluation and Stabilization Center at the Lerdo Pre-Trial Facility, H-Pod. This program is designed to act as a triage for defendants who have been determined to be incompetent to stand trial (IST) by the courts and have been sentenced to a State Hospital for restoration. All incarcerated people admitted to the AES program will be evaluated by AES Clinical staff to determine if:

- The defendant is malingering and can be returned to the court process.
- The defendant can be restored to competency in the AES program.
- The defendant is not treatable in the AES program and requires a transfer to a State Hospital.
- The defendant is determined to be not treatable by the AES program or a State Hospital, is considered non-restorable and is returned to the court process with a recommendation for conservatorship.

This program will allow for IST defendants to be treated locally, if possible, with the intent of preserving limited State Hospital beds for those who need them most.

This policy is not intended to be a comprehensive outline of the AES program but will serve to outline specific operational differences for this program.

DEFINITIONS:

Q15 – An observation check conducted by AES Medical / Mental Health staff every 15 minutes.

Q30 – An observation check conducted by AES Medical / Mental Health staff every 30 minutes.

Constant Watch – Observation where AES Medical / Mental Health staff maintain constant line of site.

One to One – Observation status where AES Medical / Mental Health staff maintain an arm's reach distance from patient at all times.

PMU – Department of State Hospitals Patient Management Unit.

WellPath – The contracted medical / mental health provider for incarcerated people admitted to the AES program.

DIRECTIVE #1

Incarcerated people admitted to the AES will wear a distinct wristband and set of clothing to identify them. Due to the nature of the group therapy setting, wristbands for all AES admits security levels 0-8 will be solid green. AES admits with a security level of 9 will have a green wristband with an orange insert. All AES incarcerated people will be issued a set of lime green incarcerated person clothing. Classification levels will be determined by Population Management Classification deputies, pursuant to DBPPM K-100.

DIRECTIVE#2

Programming hours for the AES are Monday-Friday, 0800 – 1600 hours with the exception of holidays. All activity during programming hours is facilitated by five program deputies (Henry 4-8). The assigned Henry 1 and 3 deputies are responsible for security checks within H-Pod and will assist with program activities as needed.

DIRECTIVE #3

Due to the intensive mental health / therapeutic nature of this program, it is necessary to house admitted incarcerated people of multiple classifications within the same unit or attending programming time together based on their current treatment pathway.

Prior to an incarcerated person being housed in the AES, clinical staff will assess the incarcerated person and inform them of their expected behavior in the non-aggressive therapeutic environment maintained in AES housing units and program spaces.

Kern County incarcerated people admitted to the AES will retain their classification upon admittance. Incarcerated people admitted to the AES from other counties will be classified in accordance with Detentions Bureau classification policies (see section K of DBPPM).

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Housing, escort, and participation in group by incarcerated people of different classifications conducted within the AES Housing Units will be in accordance with AES procedures regardless of the incarcerated people' classification.

Housing assignments within the AES will be determined by the patient's current treatment pathway and will be assigned by the AES Sergeant in consultation with Classification. If AES incarcerated people become aggressive towards other participants, they may be moved to a different unit within the pod.

All new admits to the AES, incarcerated people on suicide watch and incarcerated people who require constant watch or one-to-one observation, as determined by WellPath staff, will be housed in Unit 1. All new admits will be under constant supervision by AES Medical / Mental Health Staff, with Q15 checks for the first 72 hours. After a new admit has been housed in Unit 1 for seven days, they may be rehoused to Units 2-4 based on their behavior and/or determined treatment path.

Outside the AES Housing Pod, AES incarcerated people will be kept separate from non-AES incarcerated people. AES incarcerated people will be escorted, restrained, and staged in holding cells in accordance with their classification.

DIRECTIVE #4

The AES Program has four cells in H-Pod, Unit 1, designated for suicide watch or increased observation based on medical condition or behavior. All provisions of DBPPM Section C-200 will apply whenever an incarcerated person is housed in these cells on suicide watch.

DIRECTIVE #5

All medical and mental health care for incarcerated people admitted to the AES will be provided by WellPath, including administration of emergency or court ordered medications. If an AES patient must be transported off-site for medical treatment, incarcerated people with a security level of 0-8 may be transported by one deputy. Incarcerated people with a security level of 9 will be transported by two deputies.

DIRECTIVE #6

All disciplinary proceedings resulting out of incidents occurring within the AES will be determined by the AES Sergeant in collaboration with AES Program Medical / Mental Health Staff to determine appropriate disciplinary sanctions.

DIRECTIVE #7

The AES Sergeant shall be notified of any incidents that require documentation pursuant to DBPPM A-1500. The incident type code “4052 – Incident Involving AES incarcerated person” will be used along in addition to any other applicable incident codes.