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# MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION OF JAIL INMATES WITH MENTAL DISORDERS

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Second Edition

Martin Drapkin

*Contributing Authors*  
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# How to Use This Book

This book is a practical guide for professionals who operate adult jails and for the mental health professionals and jail staff who work with them to implement and provide the jail's mental health services delivery system. The book covers system management issues, suggests effective policy and procedure options, and addresses questions of overall institutional liability and responsibility. In addition, the book provides hands-on information that will help supervisory staff and line officers to better understand the more common mental disorders seen among jail inmates and how jail staff can better work with and supervise inmates suffering from such disorders and those inmates who may be suicidal. It may therefore prove an excellent element in an institutional training program.

The book is divided into two major sections:

- Text chapters explain the issues and processes involved in working with jail inmates who have mental disorders. Throughout the text you will find “Key Points” and “Planning Points,” which highlight critical issues and essential jail management and supervisory practices.
- The appendixes provide sample forms, checklists, and policies and procedures to help jail management, mental health care providers, and jail staff to better work together to supervise and serve the inmate population. These samples may be used as is or adapted to your institution's particular needs.

A detailed table of contents at the front of the book sets out the coverage of each chapter. To help readers easily locate a particular piece of information, we have included a topical index at the back of the book, referenced to page numbers. Readers looking for discussion of specific legal cases can turn to the Index entry “Case law” to find a complete listing of all cases referenced in the text. There is also a Table of Resources, which provides a bibliography of other published materials that may be of use to professionals in the field.

# Preface

## PURPOSE/ORGANIZATION OF THIS BOOK

This book is intended to serve as a practical guide for those who operate local adult jails in planning for implementation of a good mental health services delivery system. The intent is to focus on basic information and issues. Some issues are covered in more depth than others. Specifically, the key focus is on understanding the more common mental disorders seen among jail inmates, on effective management and supervision of inmates with such disorders, and on establishing systematic procedures for securing professional treatment of inmates both within the jail and outside of it.

However, the book is not intended to cover all related issues or to be a guide for clinicians in diagnosing or providing care for inmates with mental disorders. For example, the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders* (DSM-IV)<sup>1</sup> lists several hundred specific mental disorders and includes diagnostic criteria for each. Many of the disorders listed in DSM-IV are certainly seen among jail inmates, but it would be impossible and unnecessary to discuss all of them. Instead, only a few selected disorders—those that are perhaps most common and troublesome—are specifically discussed. This includes three categories of serious and persistent mental illness (major depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia) and three specific personality disorders (antisocial personality disorder, borderline personality disorder, and paranoid personality disorder).

Although mental disorders are commonly seen among juveniles (i.e., children or adolescents), the primary focus here is on adult inmates. Several other issues, although important, are not discussed simply because to do so is outside the limited scope of this book (e.g., mental retardation, learning disabilities, or specific mental health problems of either gender or particular racial, ethnic, or cultural groups).

## CHAPTERS IN THE BOOK

Following is an overview of the chapters in this book:

### Chapter 1: Jail Mental Health Services—An Overview

This chapter focuses on key issues regarding mental health services in jails, including the scope of the overall problem, some reasons that so many people with mental disorders are in jails, and the goals for the provision of jail mental health care services.

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<sup>1</sup> AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION, *DIAGNOSTIC AND STATISTICAL MANUAL OF MENTAL DISORDERS* (4th ed. 1994).

## **Chapter 2: Legal Issues in Provision of Jail Mental Health Services**

This chapter, authored by attorney William Collins, includes an overview of key legal issues in the care and treatment of inmates with possible mental disorders.

## **Chapter 3: Elements in an Overall Jail Program for Identification and Management of Inmates With Mental Disorders**

This chapter lists the key elements in an overall system of care for inmates with mental disorders, and includes discussion of most of those elements.

## **Chapter 4: Supervision and Management of Inmates With Serious Mental Disorders in the Jail Setting**

This chapter includes detailed discussion of some of the more common serious mental disorders seen among jail inmates—including major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and anxiety disorders—and basic guidelines for effective management and supervision of inmates with such disorders.

## **Chapter 5: Supervision and Management of Inmates With Personality Disorders**

This chapter focuses on three of the more common personality disorders (a category of mental disorders) seen among jail inmates—antisocial personality disorder, borderline personality disorder, and paranoid personality disorder—and includes descriptions of each and basic guidelines for effective management and supervision of inmates who may have such disorders.

## **Chapter 6: Psychiatric Medications—An Overview**

This chapter includes a discussion of psychiatric medications in general, and contains information on the basic categories of such medications and names of common medications within each category. There is also discussion of some of the common issues regarding use of psychiatric medications in a jail setting.

## **Chapter 7: Jail Suicide Prevention**

This chapter includes detailed discussion of the elements of a comprehensive jail suicide prevention program.

## **Chapter 8: The Team Approach in Provision of Jail Mental Health Services**

This chapter focuses on the importance of a systematic “team approach” in planning and provision of mental health care services both within the jail and in terms of diversion and aftercare mental health services.

## **Chapter 9: Policies and Procedures, Training, and Supervision**

This chapter includes discussion of the importance of written policies and procedures to ensure the success of a system for provision of mental health care services, and also includes specific guidelines for writing good policies and procedures. Also discussed are the importance of and guidelines for effective training of staff members on policy contents, and good supervision to ensure compliance with policies and procedures.

## **Appendices**

The appendices contain materials designed to illustrate ideas or information discussed in the chapters and/or to serve as useful samples of forms, documents, and so on.

- Appendix A contains sample screening forms.
- Appendix B contains forms for referral of inmates.
- Appendix C includes a sample inmate behavior management plan.
- Appendix D includes suggested issues for a Memorandum of Understanding or a contract with a third-party provider.
- Appendix E contains checklists of policy issues in regard to all key elements of a mental health services program in the jail, and a specific checklist of jail suicide prevention policy issues.
- Appendix F includes sample policies and procedures on several key issues.
- Appendix G provides a sample mental health treatment plan, as well as a mental health management order.
- Appendix H provides several operational forms.
- Appendix I lists common psychiatric medications, by class.
- Appendix J provides a comparison of the accreditation standards of the two major corrections accrediting agencies.
- Appendix K sets out staff training issues.



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