

**Standards Committee Meeting Minutes
2022 Winter Conference
Phoenix Convention Center - Room 130
Phoenix, Arizona
January 6, 2022**

Members Present

Chambers-Smith, Annette, Chair, Ohio
Collier, Bryan, Vice-Chair, Texas
Armenta, Apolonio, Coahuila, Mexico
Blessinger, Christine, Indiana
Cadreche, Marina, Florida
Dauss, Kristen, Indiana
DeVoter, Michael, Florida
Grande, Peter, Kansas
Koon, Ron, Georgia
Riggin, Viola, Kansas
Santa, Colette, Massachusetts
Shinn, David, District of Columbia
Stickrath, Thomas, Ohio

Members Absent

Aufderheide, Dean, Florida
Clarke, Harold, Virginia
Frakes, Scott, Nebraska
Green, Robert, Maryland
Lengerich, Jason, Colorado
Linthicum, Lannette, Texas
Little, George
McFadden, Garry, North Carolina
Linthicum, Lannette, Texas

Staff

James A. Gondles, Jr, Executive Director
Jeff Washington, Deputy Executive Director
Dr. Elizabeth Gondles, ACA Office of Correctional Health
David Haasenritter, Director of Standards and Accreditation
Dehavilland Whitaker, Senior Accreditation Specialist
Delilah Tsipliareles, Accreditation Specialist
Eli Mendoza, Accreditation Specialist

Opening Remarks

Annette Chambers-Smith, chairperson of the committee, welcomed the committee members and guests. Ms. Chambers-Smith discussed the meeting agenda. A motion was made and was seconded to approve the August 2021 Standards Committee Meeting Minutes from the 151st Congress of Correction in Nashville, Tennessee. The motion was approved unanimously.

ACA President, Tony Parker welcomed the committee members and guests to Phoenix. Mr. Parker spoke on the unprecedented times, and commended everyone on working together to complete the mission of corrections.

ACA Executive Director James A. Gondles, Jr. welcomed new committee members and ACA staff. Mr. Gondles encouraged everyone to attend the healthcare reception at the Sheraton Valley of the Sun ballroom beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Commission Chair, Mr. Thomas Stickrath recognized current and new commission members. Mr. Stickrath mentioned that 157 facilities were up for accreditation, 9 of which were initial audits, and 38 international audits from Mexico, and the first from Costa Rica.

David Haasenritter, Director of the Standards and Accreditation Department gave opening and welcoming remarks.

A motion was made for discussion of the proposed standards revisions.

Section 2

Old Business

Manual: Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI)
Edition: Fifth
Standard: 5-3A-4185
Agency/Facility: Colorado Department of Corrections
Facility Size: N/A
Accredited: No
Proposal Type: Revision

Existing Standard: Written policy, procedure, and practice require that between the warden/superintendent and assistant warden/superintendent(s), each institution's living and activity areas shall be visited weekly within a schedule that ensures the warden/superintendent personally conducts rounds in all areas no less than one time per month. In addition, designated department heads shall visit the institution's living

Proposal: Written policy, procedure and practice require that the assistant warden/superintendent(s) and designated department heads shall conduct rounds within a rotating schedule that ensures all living and activity areas are visited at least weekly to encourage informal contact with staff and inmates and to informally observe living and working conditions. The warden/superintendent shall personally conduct rounds in all living and activity areas at least once during the month. In the event of a prolonged absence of the warden/superintendent a designee may be appointed to conduct the required rounds.

Comments: Although the Colorado Department of Corrections is in agreement that the warden/superintendent should make rounds of all living and activity areas of their facilities; the current expected practice language of having the warden/superintendent and assistant warden/superintendent(s) visit all areas weekly is an unrealistic expectation for larger facilities or for wardens/superintendents and assistant wardens/superintendent(s) that oversee more than one facility. Smaller facilities don't always have both positions which further puts an unrealistic expectation on the one person who is fulfilling two roles. In facilities that have both positions, the expectation that the assistant wardens/superintendents are to visit all living and activity areas that the warden/superintendent didn't or couldn't visit during the week is also unrealistic and lends itself to the completion of cursory walk-throughs that don't allow for informal contact with staff and inmates and observation of living and working conditions which is what the Colorado Department of Corrections believes to be the desired intent of the expected practice.

Name: Shelby Pickerill
Title: Accreditation Administrator
Email: shelby.pickerill@state.co.us

COMMENTS: *"I disagree with changing the language of this standard to include "designated department heads" on a rotating schedule. It is important for ALL of them to maintain contact with staff and inmates on an informal basis. The Warden/Supt. has the authority to designate the weekly rounds to their staff. I do not believe the current expectations are unrealistic."*

- Michelle Burrows, CCM
- Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections

COMMENTS:

The Performance-Based Standards Sub-committee recommends no change to the expected practice. In considering the importance of the Warden/Superintendent needing to maintain contact with staff and inmates and observe his/her facility operations; and the flexibility of the expected practice to allow at a minimum once a month when not able to conduct weekly the subcommittee did not believe the expected practice should be changed.

FOR ACA STAFF USE ONLY- ACA File No. 2020-002

The above proposed revision, addition, or deletion would also affect the following manuals:
4-ALDF-2A-12; 1-CORE-5C-03

Action taken by the standards committee:

Approved **Denied** Tabled Referred to: Subcommittee to be formed by David Haasenritter

Manual: Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI)

Edition: 5th

Standard: 5-ACI-6A-38

Agency/Facility: Naval Consolidated Brig – Charleston

Facility Size: 175

Accredited: Yes

Proposal Type: Revision

Existing Text: A mental health residential treatment unit is available for those inmates with impairment in behavioral functioning associated with a serious mental illness and/or impairment in cognitive functioning. The severity of the impairment does not require inpatient level of care, but the inmate demonstrates a historical and current inability to function adequately in the general population. There should be a specific mission/goal of the program, sufficient qualified staff to meet needs of program, screening process for the program, individual treatment plans for inmates in the program, safe housing to meet the therapeutic needs of the inmate and transition plan upon discharge from the residential treatment unit.

Proposed Text: Where a mental health residential unit exists, it is available for those inmates with impairment in behavioral functioning associated with a serious mental illness and/or impairment in cognitive functioning. The severity of the impairment does not require inpatient level of care, but the inmate demonstrates a historical and current inability to function adequately in the general population. There should be a specific mission/goal of the program, sufficient qualified staff to meet needs of program, screening process for the program, individual treatment plans for inmates in the program, safe housing to meet the therapeutic needs of the inmate and transition plan upon discharge from the residential treatment unit.

Comments: The wording of the standard requires a Mental Health Residential Unit. Not all ACI facilities have the space or manning to provide these services.

Name: Steven Laird

Title: Technical Director

Email: steven.p.laird1@navy.mil

COMMENTS: No comments from field to report.

COMMENTS:

Behavioral Health Committee: Recommends no change in the current expected practices allows for the mental health treatment unit only requires it be available and availability could be at another agency facility or community facility.

FOR ACA STAFF USE ONLY- ACA File No. 2021-004

The above proposed revision, addition, or deletion would also affect the following manuals:
None.

Action taken by the standards committee: Approved as amended to replace the word "mental" with "behavioral".

A **behavioral** health residential treatment unit is available for those inmates with impairment in behavioral functioning associated with a serious mental illness and/or impairment in cognitive functioning. The severity of the impairment does not require inpatient level of care, but the inmate demonstrates a historical and current inability to function adequately in the general population. There should be a specific mission/goal of the program, sufficient qualified staff to meet needs of program, screening process for the program, individual treatment plans for inmates in the program, safe housing to meet the therapeutic needs of the inmate and transition plan upon discharge from the residential treatment unit.

Approved	Denied	Tabled	Referred to:
As			
Amended			

Manual: Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI)

Edition: 5th

Standard: 5-ACI-6A-39

Agency/Facility: Naval Consolidated Brig – Charleston

Facility Size: 175

Accredited: Yes

Proposal Type: Revision

Existing Text: Inpatient Care Unit is for those who are in need of inpatient mental health treatment. These units should have 24 hour services such as nursing and availability of a QMHP, behavioral health trained correctional officers, and clinical programming. Individual Treatment Plans which will define the types and frequency of contacts with mental health staff for inmates in the program, housing to meet the therapeutic needs of the inmate and transition plan upon discharge from the inpatient care unit.

Proposed Text: Inpatient Care Unit is **available** for those who are in need of inpatient mental health treatment. **Where a facility has an inpatient care unit**, these units should have 24 hour services such as nursing and availability of a QMHP, behavioral health trained correctional officers, and clinical programming. Individual Treatment Plans which will define the types and frequency of contacts with mental health staff for inmates in the program, housing to meet the therapeutic needs of the inmate and transition plan upon discharge from the inpatient care unit.

Comments: The wording of the standard requires the facility to have an Inpatient Care Unit. There are ACI facilities that do not have the space or manning available to provide this service. The standard should be that these services are made available, however, if the facility has an Inpatient Care Unit then these standard need to be met.

Name: Steven Laird

Title: Technical Director

Email: steven.p.laird1@navy.mil

COMMENTS: No comments from field to report.

COMMENTS:

Behavioral Health Committee: Recommends no change in the current expected practices allows for the Inpatient Care Unit only requires it be available and availability could be at another agency facility or community facility.

FOR ACA STAFF USE ONLY- ACA File No. 2021-005

The above proposed revision, addition, or deletion would also affect the following manuals:
None.

Action taken by the standards committee:

Approved Denied Tabled Referred to:

Manual: Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI)
Edition: 5th
Standard: 5-ACI-7F-01
Agency/Facility: Kentucky Department of Corrections
Facility Size: 621
Accredited: No
Proposal Type: Revision

Proposal: There is a qualified chaplain (or chaplains) with minimum qualifications of (1) one unit of clinical pastoral education or equivalent specialized training and (2) endorsement by the Denominational Endorsing Agent/officer. The chaplain assures equal status and protection for all religions.

Comments: There is a qualified chaplain (or chaplains) with minimum qualifications of (1) one unit of clinical pastoral education or equivalent specialized training and (2) endorsement **or ordination** by the Denominational Endorsing Agent/officer. The chaplain assures equal status and protection for all religions.

Name: Winston Taylor
Title: Chaplain
Email: winston.taylor@ky.gov

COMMENTS: No comments from field to report.

COMMENTS:

**American Correctional Chaplain Association and Religious Faith Based Committee:
Recommends no change in the current expected practices. Ordination is a part of the endorsement, and would lessen the requirement if change to endorsement or ordination.**

FOR ACA STAFF USE ONLY- ACA File No. 2021-006

The above proposed revision, addition, or deletion would also affect the following manuals:
4-ALDF-5C-19

Action taken by the standards committee:

Approved **Denied** Tabled Referred to:

Section 3

Reports from ACA Committees

American Correctional Association Committee on Performance-Based Standards

No Committee Reports Submitted.

Section 4

Proposals for Standards Revision

Submissions for Standards Revisions
2022 Winter Conference
Phoenix, Arizona
January 6, 2022

KEY

ACA File Number (*Order in which the submissions were received*)

Manual: *Manual in which the change is being proposed*

Standard No: *Standard to which the change is being proposed*

Agency /Facility: *Agency or facility submitting the proposed change*

Facility Size: *Size of the agency/facility proposing the change*

Accredited: *Whether or not the submitting agency/facility is accredited*

Proposal Type: *Type of proposal (addition of a new standard, deletion of the current standard, revision of the current standard, or clarification of the existing standard or comment)*

Existing Standard: *The standard printed in the manual or Supplement as it currently stands. For example:*

Blacked-out text indicates text in the existing standard that has been removed in the proposal.

Proposal: *The proposed change to the existing standard. For example:*

Highlighted Text indicated new or revised wording to the existing standard in the proposal.

Comments: *Comments from the field regarding the proposed revision. These comments generally indicate whether the commenting entity agrees or disagrees with the revision.*

Name: *Name of person submitting the revision*

Title: *Title of person submitting the revision*

Email: *email address of person submitting the revision*

Contents:

ACA File Number	Standard	Type	Page
ACA File No. 2022-001	5-ACI-2D-07	Revision	47
ACA File No. 2022-002	5-ACI-7F-05	Revision	51

Manual: Adult Correctional Institution
Edition: 5th Edition
Expected Practice: 5-ACI-2D-07
Agency/Facility: Maine State Prison
Facility Size: 100+
Accredited: Yes
Proposal Type: Revision

Existing Expected Practice: Noise levels in inmate housing units do not exceed 70 dBA (A Scale). Measurements shall be conducted annually by a qualified source with at least one measurement taking place during night time and one measurement taking place during day time.

Proposal: Noise levels in inmate housing units do not exceed 70 dBA (A Scale). Measurements shall be conducted annually by a qualified source. Measurements shall be taken during daytime hours.

Comments: Since the removal of the nighttime noise threshold from the standard, which was a much lower threshold than daytime, taking nighttime readings would seem to be an effort in futility. It stands to reason that if daytime readings are within the allowable limits, any nighttime readings would certainly be within the same limits as there is much less noise during nighttime hours.

Name: Wendell Atkinson
Title: Accreditation Manager
Email: wendell.atkinson@maine.gov

COMMENTS:

FOR ACA STAFF USE ONLY- ACA File No. 2022-001

The above proposed revision, addition, or deletion would also affect the following manuals:

Action taken by the standards committee:

Approved Denied Tabled Referred to:

Manual: Adult Correctional Institution
Edition: 5th Edition
Expected Practice: 5-ACI-7F-05
Agency/Facility: Maine State Prison
Facility Size: 100+
Accredited: Yes
Proposal Type: Revision

Existing Expected Practice: The library participates in interlibrary loan programs.

Proposal: The library participates in interlibrary loan programs unless such participation results in a disruption of the good order of the facility.

Comments: (If approved, feel free to change the added wording provided the meaning remains the same.) Reasoning- The interlibrary loan process in Maine allows our facility to use one outside library and one library only. Once prisoners became aware of that we discovered an influx of illegal drugs being introduced into the facility in the books coming in through the loan system. We have found no practical way to prevent that introduction. We decided it was more prudent to discontinue the interlibrary loan service rather than to allow the unsafe, unhealthy introduction of illegal drugs.

Name: Wendell Atkinson
Title: Accreditation Manager
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COMMENTS:

FOR ACA STAFF USE ONLY- ACA File No. 2022-002

The above proposed revision, addition, or deletion would also affect the following manuals:

Action taken by the standards committee:

Approved Denied Tabled Referred to: