

**NORTH COUNTRY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH
NORTHERN AFFILIATION**

Policy Regarding Jail Diversion

POLICY:

Jail diversion efforts are dependent upon relationships between local Mental Health Boards and local law enforcement organizations. As such, this is an important aspect of the public policy management role of each Mental Health Board. It is the policy of the Northern Affiliation to utilize this local public policy management to assure consistent jail diversion practices throughout its service area. To this end, the following common criteria shall guide each Member Board's efforts:

- I. The Member Boards of the Northern Affiliation will provide jail diversion services, when appropriate, to persons with serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, developmental disability, or, any of these with a co-occurring substance abuse disorder as an alternative to being charged with a misdemeanor or non-violent felony and incarcerated in a county jail or municipal detention facility.
- II. The Member Boards of the Northern Affiliation will establish collaborative working relationships with representatives of local law enforcement agencies. Such agencies include the county prosecutor's office, county sheriff's office, county jails, municipal police agencies, municipal detention facilities and the courts.
- III. Written interagency agreements that describe the jail diversion services of the Member Boards will be established. The agreements will also identify the procedures to be used by local law enforcement agencies to access mental health jail and detention diversion services when needed. The Affiliation will work cooperatively with law enforcement personnel in implementing this policy and will specifically provide:
 - A. Case specific coordination, which may include meetings and/or phone consultations with relevant law enforcement personnel.
 - B. Cross-training opportunities to law enforcement.
 - C. Jail diversion service data and maintain a database as agreed to and specified in the DCH/PHP contract. The information will be used to monitor and evaluate the services.

Approved by Operations Committee: June 18, 2002