



Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department

Detention Integrated Medical & Mental Health Services





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Overview of Medical & Mental Health Services

The goal of the medical and mental health services is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of every youth in detention. We view detention as a unique window of opportunity to provide youth with medical and mental health care that they may not otherwise access in the community. We are committed to providing timely, confidential, and comprehensive care that addresses both immediate needs and long-term health concerns. Our services emphasize early identification of medical and behavioral health issues, continuity of care for chronic conditions, and evidence-based interventions that promote recovery, resilience, and positive outcomes. By integrating medical treatment, mental health care, and substance use support, we strive to reduce risk, prevent self-harm, and equip youth with the tools necessary for rehabilitation and successful reintegration into the community.

Hours of Operation

The medical clinic is open Monday through Sunday from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. Mental health services are available Monday through Sunday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm. A physician/nurse practitioner and mental health supervisor are available 24/7 by phone.



Access to Care

Youth in detention are provided daily opportunities to complete a **Healthcare Request Form (HCRF)** for medical or mental health concerns. The request process is explained during intake and remains confidential. The completed forms are secured in a locked box and collected daily by medical staff. Youth are evaluated by a registered nurse or counselor within **24 hours** of submitting a HCRF. In the event of an urgent medical or mental health concern, detention staff immediately notify a nurse or a mental health professional, who assesses the youth promptly and consults with the on-call medical provider or mental health supervisor as needed. Based on the severity of the concern, the youth may be referred to the nearest emergency department for further evaluation and treatment.

For medical or mental health emergencies within the facility, an overhead code is initiated to ensure an immediate multidisciplinary response. Depending on the type of code, detention, medical, and mental health staff respond within minutes to assess the situation and provide necessary care.

Youth with chronic health conditions continue to receive care in coordination with their community providers, including psychiatric services when appropriate. In addition, all youth are provided with the opportunity to engage with a mental health professional at least once per week, ensuring timely support and early identification of mental health needs.

Health Screening

Every youth receives an initial Health Screening, ideally within one hour of admission. During clinic hours, the screening is conducted by a registered nurse, while after hours it is completed by trained detention staff. The purpose of the screening is to identify urgent health concerns and includes an evaluation of current injuries or illnesses, recent substance use, current medications, and food or drug allergies. Any concerns identified during the screening are promptly communicated to the on-call medical provider for appropriate follow-up.

Intake

Within 24 hours of admission, a registered nurse conducts a comprehensive health history, which includes a medication history, substance use screening, food and drug allergies, screening for sexually transmitted infections and a physical assessment. Guardians are contacted during this process to obtain additional medical history and to ensure continuity of care, particularly for youth with chronic illnesses or upcoming community appointments. Additionally, a mental health professional checks in with every youth within the same time frame to provide support and ensure the youth understands how to access mental health services.



Physical Examination

Youth receive a **comprehensive physical examination** on **Day 6** of detention. The examination includes a review of medical history, current medications, allergies, medical alerts, and any special needs such as dietary restrictions or mental health considerations. Immunizations are reviewed and updated in accordance with current guidelines. A detailed substance use and sexual history is obtained and youth with a history of substance use are offered a box of Narcan, which is made available upon release from detention. A dental history is taken, and if cleaning has not been completed within the past year, youth are referred to AT Still University mobile dentistry onsite. In addition, vision and hearing are evaluated with recommendations provided to the guardian for any needed follow-up care. Youth are screened for exposure to Tuberculosis given the closed nature of a detention setting.

Medical Administration

Medication administration occurs on the units at **7:30 AM, 12:00 PM, and 6:00 PM**. Youth requiring special accommodation receive medication in the clinic instead of on the unit. Every youth is fully supervised while taking his or her medication through a detailed medication administration procedure. If a youth refuses medication, it is returned to the clinic for destruction. After each administration period, nurses review and sign reports verifying that all medications were administered, refused, or held.

Suicide Prevention

Upon admission, all youth are screened for suicide risk using the **Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (CSSRS)**. For detained youth, the **Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI)** is also administered. The CSSRS is utilized by healthcare personnel, detention officers, and mental health professionals, when suicide risk is suspected. If suicide risk monitoring is initiated, a mental health professional conducts a comprehensive suicide risk assessment within **24 hours**. The initial days of detention are recognized as a high-risk period for suicide. Youth placed on suicide precaution monitoring are evaluated daily by a mental health professional. Suicide risk assessments are conducted at every mental health visit (minimum weekly). Youth requiring a psychiatric evaluation are referred to a community psychiatrist or the facility's psychiatrist.



Mental Health Assessment (MHA)

A comprehensive mental health assessment (MHA) is completed by a mental health professional on every youth by 7 days of detainment to identify unmet mental health needs. The assessment is essential for identifying mental health disorders that may influence behavior, decision-making, or overall well-being. The MHA is conducted through a structured conversation between the youth and a mental health professional. This process assesses presenting symptoms, observed behaviors, and overall mental health functioning. Standardized screening instruments may be utilized to evaluate depression, anxiety, substance use, or other clinical concerns.

Counseling Services

Youth may request a counseling session in addition to their weekly scheduled meeting by completing a Health Care Referral Form (HCRF). The HCRF is simple to complete, available on every unit, and submitted confidentially. Youth who submit a HCRF will be seen by a mental health professional within 24 hours, usually the same or the next day. While youth are encouraged to complete the HCRF themselves, they may also ask unit staff to contact counseling on their behalf. If a youth is in crisis, staff must notify the mental health department immediately for an urgent response.

Every youth may meet with a mental health professional to discuss mental health concerns that may be affecting their quality of life. These sessions provide youth with a chance to develop coping strategies or simply spend time talking with a supportive person. Upon booking, each youth is placed in the Wellness Queue, which organizes youth by housing unit and is used by clinicians to schedule wellness visits or counseling sessions. The type, frequency, and length of each visit are determined by the youth's clinical needs; however, youth receive a wellness visit at least once every seven days. The treatment plans are created to guide wellness and counseling sessions and are adjusted as the youth's clinical needs change.



Substance Use Programs

The Teen Intervene Program is a structured, evidence-based intervention for youth ages 12–19 who exhibit mild to moderate substance use concerns. The program helps participants identify reasons for substance use, build personal responsibility, and develop plans for reduction or cessation. The program runs for four weeks, offers incentives for participation, and awards a certificate upon completion. Youth who complete Teen Intervene during detention also participate in a six-week follow-up program with his/her unit mental health professional which focuses on identifying triggers, recognizing the personal impact of substance use, and practicing relapse prevention strategies. In addition, youth who previously completed the program and request further support may take part in a four-week relapse prevention program.

Future

As a result of their time in detention, our goal is that each youth leaves with improved medical and mental health compared to when they entered. By providing consistent access to healthcare, counseling, and wellness services, we strive to address unmet needs, stabilize ongoing conditions, and equip youth with tools to better manage their health. Through this approach, detention becomes not only a safe and structured environment but also a restorative period where youth are supported in building a foundation for healthier futures.

Judicial Branch of Arizona – Maricopa County | Vision & Mission

VISION: The Judicial Branch of Arizona is committed to excellence and the principles inherent in the rule of law... every person, every day, every time. We fulfill these principles through a culture that values: Fairness, Respect, Integrity, Innovation, and Safety.

MISSION: The Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County is dedicated to providing a safe, fair and impartial forum for resolving disputes, enhancing access to our services, and providing innovative, evidence based programs that improve the safety of our community and ensure the public's trust and confidence in the Judicial Branch.

Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department | Vision, Mission, & Core Principles

VISION: We envision a future where all youth take responsibility for their behavior, feel heard, feel connected to their community, and believe in their own agency.

MISSION: Advance public safety through positive and meaningful change.

CORE PRINCIPLES:

- Base supervision, service, and resource-allocation decision on the results of standardized and validated assessments.
- Implement processes and services demonstrated to reduce recidivism and improve other youth outcomes and use data to continually direct system improvements.
- Employ a coordinated approach across youth-serving systems to address youth's needs.
- Tailor system policies, programs, and supervision to reflect the distinct developmental needs of adolescents.