



# POLICY & PROCEDURE

## Behavioral Health Services Referral & Follow-up

FUNCTION

Medical Management

NUMBER

6.17

PRIOR ISSUE

N/A

EFFECTIVE DATE

04/01/2022

### **Purpose:**

To establish policy and procedures for Ali'i Health Center (AHC) Behavioral Health Services.

### **Policy:**

AHC will maintain one licensed Physician Assistant who specializes in Behavioral Health. The Physician Assistant will be supervised by a Psychiatrist of Kona Community Hospital (KCH). The Physician Assistant will provide Telehealth Services one-day a week, working closely with the AHC Primary Care team and the AHC Care Coordinator during the patient screening and assessment, treatment plan and coordination with outside behavioral health services. Outside additional comprehensive behavioral health services are provided by KCH and West Hawaii Community Health Center.

### **Procedure:**

#### **Behavioral Health Services available on-site**

- I. AHC Primary Care Providers will screen and assess patients to determine presence of risk factors to identify behavioral health disorders (i.e. depression, substance abuse, warning signs for suicide).
- II. AHC Primary Care Providers will refer patients to behavioral health when risk factors have been identified.
- III. The Behavioral Health Specialist will work with the patient to create a treatment plan. The treatment plan will be a formalized documented record of the patient's current clinical symptoms and diagnosis. An outline of therapeutic strategies and goals will be established to assist the patient in reducing clinical symptoms and overcoming the behavioral health issues. The treatment plan will also include when necessary, clinical care needs and treatment that is to be provided by an outside behavioral health care setting.
- IV. AHC's Care Coordinator will aid in navigating and integrating the treatment plan set forth by Primary Care and the Behavioral Health Specialists to support patient health, wellness and independence.

#### **Behavioral Health Services coordinated off-site**

- I. AHC Primary Care Providers may also refer patients off-site for screening, assessment and diagnosis of behavioral or mental health symptoms.
- II. Patients may be referred out for therapeutic services to include but not limited to chronic disease management, substance use disorder treatment, crisis services, and psychiatric medication prescribing and management.

- III. Consultative Services can be collaborated with outside social service providers to help identify psychological, biological, medical and social causes of behavioral health concerns.
- IV. Case management will be available for patient support to develop skills to meet basic human needs consistent with their health care treatment, symptom management, recovery and independent functioning. This support can include but not limited to housing, employment, education and health care needs.