



**ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS**

**APPLICABILITY: All Authorized Personnel**

**POLICY NUMBER: # 2101**

**EFFECTIVE: 12/6/2015  
REVISED: 11/14/2018  
REVIEWED: 5/4/2021  
REVIEWED: 4/29/2022  
REVIEWED: 6/7/2023  
REVISED: 6/19/2024**

**TITLE: Responsible Health Authority  
NCCHC: J-A-02  
ACA: 5-ALDF-4D-01**

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**POLICY**

It is the policy of the Allegheny County Bureau of Corrections Healthcare Services that the Responsible Health Authority (RHA) has responsibility for ensuring that health care services are coordinated, organized, adequate, monitored, and delivered efficiently.

**PURPOSE**

To ensure healthcare services are coordinated, organized, adequate, monitored and delivered efficiently by the RHA.

## **PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES**

### **NCCHC/ACA Compliance Indicators:**

#### **NCCHC J-A-02 Responsible Health Authority:**

1. The RHA arranges for all levels of health care and ensures the quality, accessibility, and timely health services for incarcerated individuals.
2. The RHA's responsibilities are documented in a written agreement, contract, or job description.
3. The RHA must be on site at least weekly.
4. Final clinical judgments rest with a single, designated, licensed responsible physician.
5. Where there is a separate organizational structure for mental health services, there is a designated mental health clinician.
6. Where there is a separate organizational structure for dental services, there is a designated dental clinician.
7. The responsible physician (and designated mental health clinician and dental clinician, if applicable) is available to the facility frequently enough to fill the position's clinical and administrative responsibilities.

#### **ACA 5-ALDF-4D-01: Health Authority**

1. The responsibilities of the health authority include:
  - a. Establishing a mission statement that defines the scope of health care services.
  - b. Developing mechanisms, including written agreements, when necessary, to ensure that the scope of services provided and properly monitored.
  - c. Developing a facility's operational health policies and procedures
  - d. Identifying the type of health care providers needed to provide the determined scope of services.

- e. Establishing systems for the coordination of care among multi-disciplinary health care providers.
  - f. Developing a quality management program.
2. The health authority is authorized and responsible for making decisions about the deployment of health resources and the day-to-day operations of health services.
  3. When the health authority is not a physician, the medical director is responsible for establishing systems for the coordination of care among multidisciplinary health care providers and making final clinical judgement and decisions regarding incarcerated individual care.

**PROCEDURAL DETAILS:**

1. The Deputy Warden for Health Services (DWHS) is the RHA for the Allegheny County Jail Healthcare Services Department. The DWHS is a full-time, on-site position.
2. The DWHS is responsible for all administrative decisions regarding use of resources, day to day operations, establishing a mission statement that defines the scope of services provided, developing operational policies and procedures for the department, and monitoring the scope and quality of services delivered.
3. All licensed clinical providers, providing health care services, will maintain responsibility in all matters of clinical judgement in their specialty regarding the treatment provided to each patient. The final clinical judgement is the responsibility of the medical director regardless of specialty.
4. Dental services have a designated clinician, responsible for services in the department.
5. The medical director has responsibility for all clinical services within the healthcare service department.
6. The director of psychiatry has responsibility for all mental health clinical services within the healthcare service department.