

DIAGNOSTIC & EVALUATION GUIDANCE

Guidance for Recommending a Diagnostic and Evaluation on Youth

This guide is designed to assist probation officers in determining when to recommend a diagnostic and evaluation (D&E) and to help identify the necessary location for the D&E.

1 Review Known Information

- Court documents
(*preliminary inquiry, petition, etc.*)
- Prior assessments/D&Es
- Family history
- Medical/medication history
- Current Diagnoses
- Parent/caregiver presence, medical history, mental health, substance use
- DCS information
- Dual Status report(s)
- School/educational records including Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP)
- Other court records
- Trauma history

2 Timing of Diagnostic

- Pre-adjudication
 - ➔ Be mindful of the youth's 5th Amendment rights.
- Disposition/Modification

3 Known Services

- What are the current services for the youth? Call known provider(s).
- Are other outpatient services available that have not failed?
- Has the youth had prior placements in residential, Department of Corrections (DOC), or acute mental health stays? Were those stays successful?
- Does the youth qualify or receive services through the Bureau of Disabilities Services (BDS)?

4 Safety and Diagnostic Concerns

- Are there safety concerns if youth is left in the community for mental/behavioral health services? *For example, the youth engages in sexually maladaptive behaviors, physically harms others, harms self, runs away, etc.*
- Is the youth (and family) willing to participate in an evaluation on an outpatient basis?
- Given the safety concerns, what is the least restrictive most appropriate placement or setting that meets the child's needs?

5 Diagnostic Goals

- What do I not know about the youth?
- The D&E should explain:
 - ➔ Diagnoses and IQ
 - ➔ Treatment recommendations
 - ➔ Best environment for treatment
 - ➔ Aftercare plans including family involvement and local services
- Is ordering the D&E in the best interest of the child?

6 Trauma Informed

- Is probation responding in a trauma-informed manner if recommending a D&E?
- Does a D&E pose harm to the youth?
 - ➔ Consider the impact on education and if the youth has an IEP or BIP.
 - ➔ Are there other harmful effects?

7 Discharge Plan

- Make a viable discharge plan for the Court.
- Ensure a funding source for the D&E before making the request.