

**Guidelines for Clinical Practice
for the Youth Criminal Offender Program (YCOP)**

The Delaware Department of Correction's Bureau of Correctional Healthcare Services, Connections Community Support Programs, Inc., and Community Legal Aid Society of Delaware, Inc. developed the following guidelines to be implemented immediately within the Youth Criminal Offender Program (YCOP).

Adopted 3-16-2017

1. Adolescence is a developmental period distinct from adulthood and shall be afforded comprehensive services including evidence based practices for clinical interventions and treatment, education, life skills, and housing that meet the needs of youthful offenders.
2. The Delaware Department of Education shall provide and manage education requirements for all YCOP residents.
3. The Delaware Department of Correction will examine and review policies and protocols for juveniles between the ages of 16-18 who may provide consent to medical and behavioral health treatment. Ages 16-18 means 16 or older, but younger than age 18.
4. The DDOC in collaboration with the contracted provider shall encourage the integration of family members into the youthful offender's recovery process.
5. The DDOC Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) shall review each youthful offender on a weekly basis to examine and assess the offender's individualized needs. The MDT shall be comprised of medical, mental health, substance use, education, and security personnel.
6. All structured therapeutic activity, as defined by the Settlement Agreement and order, shall be evidence based and consistent with best practices for the treatment and rehabilitation of youthful offenders.
7. YCOP staff shall follow a universal assumption of trauma and practice a trauma- informed approach that promotes linkages to recovery.
8. Adjunctive and alternative therapies, such as Mindfulness, Meditation, or Yoga, will be encouraged as a component of supporting recovery.
9. The DDOC may utilize technological resources, such as tablets or computers, to the greatest extent possible, with the approval of security personnel.
10. With respect to housing, the DDOC will move toward a model that maximizes a developmentally preferable environment, which includes a dedicated space for programming, community meetings, and other collective means of engagement.
11. The DDOC will create/develop an outdoor recreation schedule, weather permitting, for activities, sports and/or physical exercise.