I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services, guidelines shall be established for provision of youth requiring therapeutic diets and/or dietary referrals. Therapeutic diets shall be prepared and served to youth according to the orders of the treating physician/practitioners pursuant to federal and state law. A diet manual shall be available in the medical department and food services areas for reference and information. (4-JCF-4C-18)

II. DEFINITIONS

As used in this policy and procedure, the following definitions apply:

Therapeutic Diet: is designed to achieve or maintain an optimal nutritional status in persons who require medical nutrition therapy to treat illness, injury or health condition.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Therapeutic diets shall be written as a doctor’s order and processed on the Special Diet Request Form XI.23.A (4-JCF-4C-18)

1. The nurse transcribing the physician order shall complete the Special Diet Request Form XI.23.A and forward it to the Food Service Manager.

2. The nurse shall place a copy of the Special Diet Request Form XI.23.A in the youth’s health record.

3. When a youth alleges a food allergy and this cannot be verified by records on hand, the nurse shall phone the parent or guardian for verification. If verification can not be accomplished at the time of admission the nurse shall instruct the youth to avoid the specific allergen until verification from parent is received.
4. When a youth is ordered a diabetic diet, the nursing personnel shall reference the Mississippi Dietetic Manual for the youth’s diabetic diet.

5. When a therapeutic diet, excluding food allergies, has been written for a long duration a physician review shall be required at least every sixty (60) days. Any change to the diet shall require a written physician order.

B. The Director of Medical Services shall revise this policy as necessary.