

<b>MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES</b>	
<b>Subject:</b> Adolescent Team (A-Team)	<b>Policy Number:</b> 36
<b>Number of Pages:</b> 3	<b>Section:</b> XIV
<b>Attachments:</b> Referral Packet	<b>Related Standards &amp; References:</b> Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated Section 43-14-1
<b>Effective Date:</b> June 1, 2012 Revised December 15, 2019	<b>Approved:</b>  DocuSigned by: <i>James Maccarone</i> James Maccarone, Director

**I. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services, that an Adolescent Team (A-Team) will be established in each Youth Services Region. The A-Team shall provide System of Care services for non-violent youthful offenders who have serious behavioral or emotional disorders. The establishment and functioning of the A-Team is set in statute and will follow guidelines set by Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 43-14-1.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

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

System of Care: A coordinated network of agencies and providers working as a team to make full range mental health and other necessary services available as needed by children with mental health problems, and their families.

**III. PROCEDURE**

The Community Services Section Youth Services Counselor is responsible for preparing an A-Team referral packet on any youth paroled from the Oakley Youth Development Center on psychotropic medication, for the A-team meeting closest to the date of parole. The Community Services Section Youth Services Counselor should also prepare a referral packet for presentation to the A-Team for any youth in the community with serious emotional or behavioral disorders, preferably prior to a dispositional hearing, to seek community based dispositional alternatives. All youth must be staffed by the A-Team prior to being referred to the State Level Review Team.

SUBJECT	POLICY	PAGE
Adolescent Team	36	2 of 3

Target Population:

Section 43-14-1(4)(b)

Youthful offenders who have serious behavioral and emotional disorders.

Section 43-21-605(1)(g)

“The disposition order provides that the court has considered the medical, educational, vocational, social and psychological guidance, training social education, counseling, substance abuse treatment, and other rehabilitative services required by that child as determined by the court.”

Team Coordinators:

- Division of Youth Services Regional Directors
- Others approved by the Division of Youth Services

Team Composition:

Section 43-14-4(b)

- Youth Services Counselor
- Community Mental Health Professional
- Social Services/Child Welfare Professional
- School Counselor, Mental Health Therapist or Social Worker
- A parent who had a child in the juvenile justice system

**Special Notes for the A-Team Referral Process**

1. A-Teams are not placement teams for 24 hour treatment centers or hospitals, nor are they authorized to recommend placement in the Oakley Youth Development Center. A-Teams are responsible for recommending an appropriate System of Care in the community, for youthful offenders for whom such a System of Care can be identified.
2. The Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) representative on each A-Team shall be an individual with a master’s degree, at a minimum, from the Children’s Services Section of a CMHC, who is qualified as per current Department of Mental Health Minimum Standards for Community Mental Health/Mental Retardation Services to conduct intake/assessment.

The completed A-Team referral packet should provide adequate amounts and types of information for the CMHC team representative to make a preliminary determination that the youth meets, or does not meet, a diagnosis from the DSM, that is among those recognized by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health’s clinical determination of

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>POLICY</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>Adolescent Team</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>3 of 3</b>

being a serious emotional disturbance (SED). Also, an additionally important role for the CMHC representative is to determine the initial intensity and types of community-based mental health services for respective youth who can be appropriately served through a System of Care in the community.

The presence and participation of appropriate CMHC members on the A-Team provide the prescribed state statute linkage between MAP Teams and A-Teams.

3. A case identified as a "Child in Need of Supervision" (CHINS), who has a serious behavioral or emotional disorder may be served by the A-Team.
4. The Youth Services Counselor is responsible for making certain that the A-Team referral packet is completely filled out and that any requested available documents are attached to the referral packet. A-Team members shall maintain confidentiality with all documents.