**Outreach to Intoxicated and/or Non-Responsive Individuals**

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| **Outreach to Intoxicated and/or Non-Responsive Individuals**  |
| **POLICY** | Outreach workers should implement safe and effective methods of assisting individuals who are non-responsive  |
| **PURPOSE** | To ensure the safety of consumers and outreach workers encountering individuals who are difficult to rouse |
| **PROCEDURE** | Engagement and assessment of intoxicated and/or non responsive individuals present numerous challenges to the outreach worker. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that staff assists these individuals in a safe, effective manner. **Initial Engagement:**When the Outreach worker encounters someone who appears to be sleeping, they should attempt to rouse the individual from a safe (approximately two arms length) distance, by verbally calling out to the person. If after several attempts the individual is not aroused, the worker should call 911 and remain with the individual until emergency help arrives. If this encounter was a result of a hotline response call, the worker should also let the dispatcher know of this outcome. * If the individual responds to the worker’s calls, the worker can engage from a safe distance, as usual.
* In inclement weather, and/or when a code is in effect, the worker should make an appropriate assessment regarding the individual’s status, vulnerability, and need for assistance/shelter and/or involuntary commitment.
	+ If the individual does not meet the criteria for involuntary commitment and is willing to come in, but is unable to ambulate independently, or safely, without assistance, the worker should call 911.
	+ If the individual is unwilling to comply with the worker’s recommendations for shelter, and does not meet the criteria for psychiatric involuntary commitment, or additional emergency procedure can/should be implemented.

**Assessment for Involuntary Commitment:** **This Section will need to be adapted based upon the laws of your state. Below is one example, based upon the state of PA's laws.** Worker must attest to the individual being “severely mentally disabled”, as follows: **“**A person is severely mentally disabled when, as a result of mental illness, his capacity to exercise self-control, judgment and discretion in the conduct of his affairs and social relations or to care for his own personal needs is so lessened that he poses a clear and present danger of harm to others or to himself. **Assessment for implementing additional emergency procedures**: In addition to a code being in effect, all of the following must be true: 1. The individual demonstrates by their behavior their refusal to accept offers of shelter made by outreach workers and/or police on two separate occasions during the same night;2. The individual does not accept offers of shelter AND do not walk away to seek shelter on their own when approached by outreach workers or police on **two** **separate** **occasions** during the same night;3. The individual remains in an unprotected area exposed to dangerous weather conditions;4. The individual does not meet the criteria for involuntary commitment under the State Mental Health Act. |