**Substance Use Treatment Referral Policy**

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| **Substance Use Treatment Referral Policy** |
| **CONTEXT** | Many persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness may need addiction treatment and services. Below is one example of a policy to support outreach workers to assist the people they assist to access addiction treatment. Determining whether or not a person is insured is a common first step in that process. Below is one example of such a policy for outreach workers, but this policy will need to be adapted to fit your community's addiction treatment system's referral procedures.  |
| **POLICY** | Authorization for substance abuse treatment is provided by **[local provider]** for persons with health insurance or by **[local provider]** for persons without health insurance. |
| **PURPOSE** | To promote efficient and effective referrals to substance use treatment. |
| **PROCEDURE** | If the person has no health insurance and no identification, the following procedure for referral to [local provider] should be followed:The outreach worker would contact [local provider] directly and ask for either [local contact] to present the individual for admission. In this way, [local provider] is clear that this indeed is an Outreach client.  They are willing to override not only ID but also any funding guidelines or protocols that were/are in place. [Local provider] has created a specific target category for Outreach clients within the system to indicate that this client's life is dangerously impacted by their drug/alcohol use and, in many cases, these clients are of the co-occurring nature which requires a very comprehensive treatment plan and coordination of case management services available to them. Please note that in order for the individual to receive treatment through [local provider] without ID, it must be called in by an Outreach worker who identifies themselves as such and states that the client is a referral. The referral for treatment to a specific site must come from [local provider]. There is no way for a client to have direct unimpeded access to treatment unless the facility has been contacted and specific direction given to them by [local provider].  |