

	CORRECTIONS MEDICINE Responsible Health Authority ACA Standard: 4 ALDF – 4D – 01	
	Effective: January 1993 Revised: Nov 2014, April 2016, April 2019, July 2019 Reviewed: Aug 2001, April 2009, May 2010, May 2017, May 2018	Policy Number: CM – 02

- I. **PURPOSE:** To establish the Responsible Health Authority for the Corrections Medicine program and the functions of that role.

- II. **POLICY:** The Director of the Saint Louis County Department of Public Health (DPH) is the Responsible Health Authority (RHA) for the Corrections Medicine practice and may further designate this authority. The RHA assumes this responsibility through the St. Louis County Charter, Section 4.120-4.130. The Director of DPH or their designee is responsible for the ongoing health care services provided to the patients incarcerated at the Buzz Westfall Justice Center.

- III. **RESPONSIBILITY:** All Corrections Medicine staff and contracted staff are responsible for the contents of this policy and procedure as well as adherence to the policy.

- IV. **PROCEDURE:**
 1. The Corrections Medicine mission statement defines the scope of health care services.
 2. The RHA oversees the medical care provided to the patients in the Buzz Westfall Justice Center. These services include:
 - a. establishing and implementing policies for the clinical aspects of the program
 - b. monitoring the appropriateness, timeliness and responsiveness of care and treatment
 - c. reviewing the recommendations for treatment made by health care clinicians in the facility
 3. The RHA or their designee authorizes and is responsible for making decisions about the deployment of health resources and the day-to-day operations of the health services program.
 4. The RHA maintains mechanisms, including written agreements, when necessary, to assure that an appropriate scope of services is provided and properly monitored.
 5. Corrections Medicine maintains comprehensive operational health policies, procedures and nursing processes, and coordinates care among multidisciplinary health care providers to assure safe and efficient patient care.

6. Corrections Medicine maintains a quality management program.

V. **REFERENCES:**

National Commission on Correctional Health Care, Standards for Health Services in Jails; Standard J-A-02; 2018

American Correctional Association; Performance Based Standards for Correctional Health Care in Adult Local Detention Facilities; Standard 4-ALDF-4D-01; Fourth Edition; June 2004

Saint Louis County Charter; Sections 4.120 – 4.130. Department of Community Health and Medical Care; November, 1979.