

Procedure No. 5-10-7

Revised: 11-12-18

Issued: 11-09-07

SUBJECT: Suicide

PURPOSE: To ensure the Health, Safety and Welfare of persons served and staff during a potential emergency situation.

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Any individual, person served or staff who makes a statement or action indicating life-threatening harm to self is to be taken seriously. Action must be taken based upon the statement alone, or after asking a clarifying question such as "what do you mean?" "What have you thought of doing?" At that point, it will be the responsibility of the person who heard the threat to involve the supervisor in further assessment and intervention. Even if it is obvious by the statement that the individual doesn't have the means to carry out the threat (such as a threat to shoot self, but no gun is available), the fact remains that the person is disturbed enough to consider harming self, and needs to be taken seriously.

Note: it is possible that such statements and behaviors may already be identified as a pattern for some persons served. In such cases, staff are responsible to know and follow the steps as outlined in the person's support plan.

If a person served has made the threat, and the support plan does not address such threats, call 911 immediately if the person appears to be in eminent danger. If they are not in immediate danger use the normal emergency notification protocol for your work area to notify the Health Services department (RN's), Home Coordinator or Program Manager. The Program Manager will notify the Director of Programs and Central Missouri Regional Center (funder) if applicable. A decision will be made by the Program Manager and Health Services on the need for immediate help or to follow-up with an appointment with a licensed professional. Staff can also assist the person supported in calling the suicide hotline at University Behavioral Health at 1-800-395-2132 if they are willing to talk to someone. If this is a new behavior, the Program Manager will be responsible to notify the Service Coordinator to amend the Individual Plan to reflect circumstances of the behavior and action to be taken by staff in the future.

If a staff person has made the threat, immediately call 911. After 911 is notified, use your normal emergency notification protocol for your work area to notify your supervisor, etc. The supervisor will also notify the Human Resource Director of any threat made by staff.

Until assistance arrives, assure safety of the individual by keeping the person under visual control, and, if necessary, by removing any objects that may be used for harm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_