

Collaborative Protocol with the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) and Steward Health Choice Arizona

I. Background:

The Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) and its currently contracted inmate healthcare vendor, Corizon, enhance community safety by working in a collaborative partnership with Steward Health Choice Arizona and its contracted providers to provide research-based prevention and intervention services. Contracted providers deliver a range of behavioral healthcare services and treatment programs for adults and youth with mental health and/or substance abuse disorders.

To facilitate the transition of individuals about to be released from ADC prisons and back into the community, collaboration between ADC and Steward Health Choice is critical to the success of reentry activities. Steward Health Choice will work with ADC and Corizon to facilitate care coordination for such individuals returning to the community. Steward Health Choice will collaborate with ADC and Corizon to identify individuals about to be released from ADC with physical and/or behavioral health chronic and/or complex care needs prior to the individual's release.

II. Data Sharing and Coordination

- a) Steward Health Choice and ADC (and Corizon) will partner to communicate timely data necessary for the coordination of care in conformance with all applicable administrative orders, 42 CFR Part 2, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements that permit the sharing of written, verbal, and electronic information.
- b) Steward Health Choice and ADC (and Corizon) shall collaborate to ensure the proper establishment and maintenance of coordination of care processes as outlined in AMPM Policy 1020 and 1050.
- c) Steward Health Choice and ADC (and Corizon) shall utilize data sharing agreements and administrative orders that permit the sharing of written, verbal, and electronic information at the time of admission into the facility and at the time of discharge.

III. Coordination of Care Protocols

Steward Health Choice will collaborate with ADC and Corizon to identify individuals entering ADC facilities with physical and/or behavioral health chronic and/or complex care needs to improve coordination of care.

ADC and Corizon will attempt to identify individuals with complex physical and/or behavioral health needs and notify Steward Health Choice at least 30 days prior to the individual's release, to increase the ability to initiate care coordination activities. This may include providing current medication sheet, and last prescription and injection administration date, if applicable.

IV. Provide mechanisms for communication and resolving problems

Quarterly steering committee meetings will be held to build and strengthen relationships and address any problems or conflicts.

Meetings shall include opportunities for agency cross-training and also for identifying, communicating, and resolving problems to increase understanding and knowledge of each other's mission, goals, and how, through agency collaboration, individuals are provided identified services to improve their health and well-being and reduce recidivism.

Steward Health Choice and ADC will work together to ensure processes from both agencies are being properly practiced. On-going improvement efforts will focus on reducing redundancies and providing timely, accurate, and relevant information in order to coordinate services and evaluate outcomes of those services.

Steward Health Choice and ADC will identify key staff with the authority to assist with disputes and find resolutions based on the agreements and best interest of the populations jointly served. If necessary, this may include the Steward Health Choice Chief Medical Officer (or designee) and the ADC Mental Health Director. Meetings shall include opportunities to report identified gaps in coordination and to discuss and take action on proposed resolutions.

V. Identify and address joint training needs

Steward Health Choice and its contracted providers and ADC will provide cross-training opportunities as mutually agreeable needs are identified and agreed upon.

VI. Review

This collaborative protocol shall be reviewed annually and updated as mutually agreed by both parties.

VII. Special Projects

Steward Health Choice will work with ADC and Valleywise Health (formerly MIHS) to develop and implement Targeted Investment Justice programs to serve persons releasing from prison to community supervision.

This protocol outlines the joint commitments of both parties in our service in the community.

Steward Health Choice

Arizona Department of Corrections

Signature of Authorized Individual

Signature of Authorized Individual

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____