



OREGON YOUTH AUTHORITY

Policy Statement

Part II – Youth Services (Facilities)



Subject:

Enhanced/Supplemental Interactive Supervision of Youth

Section – Policy Number:

A: Security – 3.2

Supersedes:

N/A

Effective Date:

10/10/2022

Date of Last Review/Revision:
None

Related Standards and References:

- [ORS 420.070](#) (Adjudicated youth in legal custody of superintendent)
- Performance-based Standards (PbS), *Juvenile Correctional and Detention Facilities Security (SeEP3)*
- [OYA policy](#): II-A-2.0 Searches of Youth and Youth Property in OYA Facilities
- II-A-3.0 Interactive Supervision of Youth
- II-D-2.2 Suicide Prevention in OYA Close-custody Facilities
- II-F-1.0 Youth Rights (facilities)
- [OYA Living Units Fundamental Practices](#)
- [OYA forms](#): YA 4439 Suicide Watch/Precautions
YA 4400 Youth Visual Observation Log

Related Procedures:

- FAC II-D-2.2 (Suicide Prevention)
- FAC II-A-3.0 (Youth Counts)
- Facility local operating protocols

Policy Owner

Facility Services Assistant Director

Approved:


Joseph O'Leary, Director

I. PURPOSE:

This policy provides standards for individualized increased supervision precautions in response to behavioral, psychiatric, or physical health needs of youth in OYA close-custody facilities.

II. POLICY DEFINITIONS: None

III. POLICY:

OYA strives to promote and maintain the safety, health, and wellbeing of youth, in part by minimizing the occurrence of aggressive, suicidal, or self-destructive behavior. While youth who engage in such behavior often require a targeted increase in presence of staff, this need must be weighed against the intrusion that such interventions may create. The least intrusive means of ensuring safety must be used, with the goal of helping youth regain the ability to maintain safety without the need for an increased staff presence.

OYA also strives to provide all necessary care to youth who are medically compromised, which may include assigning staff to monitor a youth's comfort or wellbeing, to prevent unintentional harm, and to prevent interference with medically necessary devices or procedures.

IV. GENERAL STANDARDS:

A. Enhanced or supplemented supervision standards

1. The standards listed in this policy only enhance or supplement the standards already established in OYA policy II-A-3.0 Interactive Supervision of Youth.
2. Enhanced or supplemented supervision may not be used as a form of punishment or a sanction. It must only be used for safety, treatment, or health intervention.
3. Enhanced supervision must not infringe on a youth's rights as outlined in OYA policy II-F-1.0 Youth Rights (facilities).
4. For staff and youth safety reasons, one staff may not supervise one youth alone. There must be other staff or youth within sight or hearing.

B. Types and levels of enhanced/supplemented supervision

1. The type of enhanced supervision indicates the primary behavior or condition that warrants more careful monitoring and intervention.
 - a) Suicide/self-harm supervision: May be required to provide enhanced monitoring and intervention for youth who are at risk of engaging in suicidal or self-harming behaviors.
 - b) Behavioral supervision: May be required to provide enhanced monitoring and intervention for youth who are at risk of engaging in dangerous behaviors. These behaviors may include harming others, escape risk, sexual contact with peers, etc.
 - c) Medical supervision: May be required to provide enhanced monitoring and supervision for youth that health care staff identify as having an acute, moderate, or severe medical illness, or a chronic debilitating medical condition; to prevent youth with medical conditions from inadvertently harming themselves; or to ensure protection of medical equipment or safe delivery of necessary medical treatment.
2. The level of enhanced supervision describes the staff-to-youth ratio for supervision and supplemental frequency with which staff make contact with the youth being supervised.
 - a) **Unobtrusive supervision**

- (1) A staff member must be assigned to be aware of a youth's location and activities at all times.
- (2) Staff must have visual and (if the youth is awake and able) verbal contact with the youth at least three times per hour, at irregular intervals, never more than 30 minutes apart.
- (3) Staff must document observations of the youth's behaviors and emotions on a YA 4400 Youth Visual Observation Log.

b) Close supervision

- (1) A staff member must be assigned to be aware of a youth's location and activities at all times.
- (2) Staff must have visual and (if the youth is awake and able) verbal contact with the youth at least five times per hour, at irregular intervals, never more than 15 minutes apart.
- (3) Staff must document observations of youth's behaviors and emotions at staggered intervals not to exceed 15 minutes day and night on a YA 4400.

c) Constant (1:1) supervision

- (1) A staff member must be assigned to monitor a youth's location and activities as their primary duty at all times as a 1:1 staff.
- (2) The assigned staff member must maintain constant visual contact and consistent physical proximity, and verbal contact while the youth is awake, within the parameters specified on a YA 4439.
- (3) Supervision at staff ratios greater than 1:1 (2:1, etc.) is the same as 1:1, except that more than one person is assigned to monitor the youth.
- (4) Staff must document observations of the youth's behaviors and emotions at least every 10 minutes day and night on a YA 4400. The QMHP must review the OYA 4400 daily.
- (5) When the youth is in a single room, or sleeping, staff must not be assigned 1:1 supervision duty for more than one hour without a minimum one-hour change of duties.
- (6) When the youth is awake and participating in group activities (free time, group, school), the staff assigned

1:1 supervision duty must be relieved from the 1:1 duty to take their regularly scheduled breaks.

- (7) At the beginning of their 1:1 assignment, staff must briefly review the YA 4400 and discuss the present condition of the youth with the staff member finishing their supervision assignment. During these times, the staff finishing their supervision assignment must maintain visual observation of the youth.

C. Initiation of enhanced/supplemental supervision

1. Any staff who becomes aware of a youth's unsafe, unpredictable, or suicidal behavior or deterioration in medical condition must immediately take measures to ensure the safety of the youth and others, and to notify a QMHP or other mental health staff.
2. The staff must:
 - a) Immediately implement necessary safety and security measures, including the temporary enhancement of supervision and required documentation until the QMHP or medical professional is available;
 - b) Follow OYA policy II-A-2.0 Searches of Youth and Youth Property in OYA Facilities to determine if a search of the youth's person or property may be necessary to identify items in the youth's possession that could be used to harm self or others; and
 - c) Document specific behavior(s) or medical condition(s) that prompted intervention, the method of intervention, the youth's response to the intervention, and the reason this specific intervention was used in a JJIS Youth Incident Report (YIR).
3. The QMHP or health care practitioner must:
 - a) If the situation is behavioral or psychological in nature, assess the youth and situation and determine the primary type of supervision, the level of supervision, and any other relevant therapeutic interventions to be used. Findings must be documented in a JJIS contact note;
 - b) If the situation is medical in nature, consult with medical professionals and arrange for a medical evaluation. Medical supervision may be ordered. The QMHP and medical professional must evaluate the youth and determine the primary type of supervision, the level of supervision, and any other relevant therapeutic interventions to be used. Findings must be documented in a JJIS contact note and the electronic medical record; and

- c) Document the orders for enhanced/supplemental supervision in JJIS using a YA 4439, and make the form available to living unit leadership and staff.
- D. Enhanced supervision communication (JJIS OYA 4439)
- 1. The assigned QMHP must enter all enhanced supervision into JJIS using YA 4439, and must contain the following required elements:
 - a) Type of supervision;
 - b) Level of supervision;
 - c) Primary behavior(s) of concern;
 - d) Time of day that supervision is required;
 - e) Distance staff should remain from youth while supervising;
 - f) Allowed youth movement, particularly off unit; and
 - g) Allowed youth property.
 - 2. If appropriate supervision requires two different supervision levels to be implemented at different times, this must be clearly designated on the YA 4439 requirements (e.g., “1:1 behavioral supervision from for school hours or swing shift”; and “close behavioral supervision for the overnight hours”).
 - 3. The default parameters for enhanced supervision may be modified by the QMHP or YSRC and must be documented on the YA 4439.
 - a) Default parameters include the following:
 - (1) Enhanced supervision level and type applies at all times (24 hours per day);
 - (2) Enhanced supervision is applicable in all areas, both on and off the unit;
 - (3) Youth may attend and participate in treatment groups and activities, meals, recreational time, visits, and religious services, unless specifically restricted by the orders documented on the YA 4439;
 - (4) Continuous visualization of the head, neck and hands of any youth on 1:1 or greater suicide/self-harm supervision is required, including during use of the bathroom and shower;
 - (5) For a youth on 1:1 or greater supervision, staff must remain approximately two-arms-length from the youth (in the doorway, if the youth is in their room);

- (6) For a youth on suicide/self-injury supervision, access to sharps (e.g., razors, pencil sharpeners, CDs, DVDs) and items that could be used as potential ligatures (e.g., belts, sheets, cords) are restricted unless specifically permitted by the orders documented on the YA 4439; and
 - (7) Youth must be allowed to keep in their possession any property items that are assessed as posing a low risk of being used to harm themselves or others as outlined in OYA policy II-A-2.0 Searches of Youth and Youth Property in OYA Facilities.
- b) Modification of default parameters may include the following:
- (1) Increased numbers of staff assigned (e.g., 2:1);
 - (2) Temporary removal of property that may be used to harm self or others;
 - (3) Requirement to use specific bedding to reduce the risk of suicidal behavior;
 - (4) Permission for youths on suicide/self-injury supervision to use or keep in their room any sharp item or potential ligature;
 - (5) Restriction of movement related to treatment activities, outside recreation, cafeteria, or religious services;
 - (6) Allowance of specific movement outside of unit for activities other than treatment activities, outside recreation, or religious services;
 - (7) Modification for different times of day;
 - (8) Modification of physical distance allowable between staff and youth;
 - (9) Modification of specific places where supervision orders apply or do not apply;
 - (10) Requirement for room door to remain open, for youths on unobtrusive or close observation; or
 - (11) Other modifications as deemed necessary.
4. The youth assessment and rationale for any enhanced supervision interventions, including the rationale for modifying default parameters, must be documented by the ordering QMHP in a JJIS contact note.

E. Reassessment of Enhanced Supervision

1. If a covering QMHP or a staff after hours places a youth on enhanced supervision, the youth must be reassessed by the assigned QMHP the next business day. The reassessment must be documented in a JJIS contact note.
2. Any youth on enhanced supervision is, at a minimum, reassessed at the frequency listed on the YA 4439.
3. All youth on 1:1 (or greater) enhanced supervision must be reassessed by a QMHP daily.
4. All 1:1 (or greater) behavioral or suicide/self-harm supervision interventions must be reevaluated daily by the facility YSRC.

Following this reevaluation, if the YSRC members determine that no change to the enhanced supervision is indicated, a JJIS contact note must be written by a QMHP. The note must address the following:

- a) The rationale for ongoing supervision; and
 - b) Effectiveness of existing interventions to reduce or eliminate those symptoms or behaviors which require enhanced supervision.
5. If 1:1 or greater behavioral or suicide/self-harm supervision has persisted and continues to be clinically necessary seven days after the initiation of enhanced supervision, the MDT must develop further intervention strategies specifically designed to reduce or eliminate symptoms or behaviors which require enhanced supervision.
 - a) These interventions must be added to the youth's case plan within 14 days of the initiation of enhanced supervision.
 - b) For a youth who remains on 1:1 or greater behavioral or suicide/self-harm supervision, MDT meetings must be conducted weekly for the first four weeks. Then monthly, until the supervision is discontinued.
 6. All youth on enhanced supervision must be reviewed by the facility YSRC at least once per week.

This review must be documented in a JJIS contact note. If supervision continues to be deemed appropriate, a rationale for ongoing supervision and interventions to help the youth become safe must be documented.

F. Discontinuation or change of enhanced supervision

1. Only the YSRC, OYA supervising psychologist, or OYA medical director may discontinue enhanced supervision.

2. Only the YSRC, OYA supervising psychologist, or OYA medical director may change enhanced supervision interventions. This applies also to temporary supervision implemented by staff.
3. Rationale for discontinuation or change of enhanced supervision orders must be documented in a JJIS contact note.

G. Youth Education About Enhanced Supervision

1. Unless clinically contraindicated, the QMHP or a designee must explain the type and level of enhanced supervision to the youth and describe both the staff's and the youth's responsibilities to the youth.
2. The person who provides education to the youth about enhanced supervision must document this in a JJIS contact note, including an assessment of the youth's understanding of what they have been told.

VII. LOCAL OPERATING PROTOCOL REQUIRED: NO