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## **North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, LLC**

Section 1500 – Clinical: Co-Occurring Disorder Screening and Assessment-

Authorizing Source:

Approved by: Executive Director

Date: 4/29/2025

Signature:

### **POLICY # 1559.00**

### **SUBJECT: CO-OCCURRING DISORDER SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT**

#### **PURPOSE**

To provide an integrated, comprehensive and routine screening and assessment process for behavioral health conditions.

#### **POLICY**

Behavioral Health Agencies (BHAs) will ensure all individuals age 13 and above at admission are asked to complete the Health Care Authority (HCA) approved screening and assessment tool, GAIN-SS (Global Appraisal of Individual Needs-Short Screener) version 3.0+.

#### **PROCEDURES**

1. BHAs must attempt to complete the GAIN-SS assessment during:
  - a. All intakes at BHAs for individuals including children who turn 13 (between 13<sup>th</sup> birthday and the next individual service plan review).
  - b. The initial assessment at evaluation and treatment facilities (E&Ts).
  - c. The provision of each crisis episode including Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) investigations services, except when:
    - i. Service results in a referral for an intake assessment;
    - ii. Service results in an involuntary detention under RCW 71.05, 71.34;
    - iii. Contact is by telephone only; or
    - iv. Clinician conducting the crisis intervention or ITA investigation has information the individual has completed a GAIN-SS screening within the previous 12 months.
2. GAIN-SS screening must be completed as self-report and signed by the individual on the HCA GAIN-SS form.
3. If the individual refuses to complete the GAIN-SS screening or if the clinician determines the individual is unable to complete the screening for any reason, this must be documented on the GAIN-SS form.
4. BHAs shall include requirements for training staff that will be using the tool(s) to address the screening and assessment process, the tool and quadrant placement, as well as requirements for corrective action if the process is not implemented.
5. BHAs must complete a co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder assessment outlined in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Treatment Protocol 42 (March 2020), to determine a quadrant placement for the individual when the individual scores a two (2) or higher on either of the first two scales (Internalizing Disorder Screener & Externalizing Disorder Screener) and a two (2) or higher on the third scale (Substance Abuse Screener).

6. Results of the GAIN-SS screening, including refusals and unable-to-complete, must be reported to HCA throughout the BHA's contract period of performance.
7. The assessment, to include quadrant placement, shall be completed as part of the initial intake evaluation process at BHAs and free-standing, non-hospital evaluation and treatment facilities. The assessment is not required during crisis episodes of care including ITA investigations. The quadrant placements are defined as:
  - a. Less severe mental health disorder/less severe substance disorder;
  - b. More severe mental health disorder/less severe substance disorder;
  - c. Less severe mental health disorder/more severe substance disorder;
  - d. More severe mental health disorder/more severe substance disorder.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None