



FY2011 RECOMMENDATION/FY11-D20 IMPLEMENT A STANDARDIZED MENTAL ILLNESS SCREENING INSTRUMENT

Status: Cannot Implement

Actions/Updates

2015 UPDATE

No further action on this recommendation.

2014 UPDATE

No action on this recommendation.

2013 UPDATE

No action on this recommendation.

2012 ACTION/IMPLEMENTATION

This recommendation has not been implemented.

Description

Implement a standardized mental illness screening instrument as part of the presentence investigation or, if none was completed, at post-sentence probation intake.

Agencies Responsible

Judicial Branch, Division of Behavioral Health

Discussion

Assessment is a critical component of evidence-based correctional practices to reduce recidivism. The lack of empirical information regarding the mental health status of defendants, particularly at the beginning of the criminal justice process, creates an immediate barrier to the successful completion of a criminal sentence. Colorado has valid and reliable mental illness screening instruments for adults and juveniles and these should be completed routinely as part of all pre-sentence investigations and postsentence intake processes.