

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



TODD WASMER, WARDEN
TECUMSEH STATE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION



THE CHALLENGE PROGRAM (TCP)

The Challenge Program is a risk-reducing program implemented toward those individuals who pose substantial risk to themselves, others, and the institution. TCP shall be exclusively implemented within longer-term restrictive housing. Comprised of five evidence informed program components, TCP is implemented as a targeted intervention program, with the intention of eliciting pro-social change within participants.

ELIGIBILITY

When determining eligibility to TCP, the individual's institutional history for the past three year period shall be considered. As a general rule, participants should have involvement in one or more of the following infractions:

1. Serious staff assault
2. Serious assault on another inmate
3. Serious STG related altercation
4. Multiple-person assaults/altercations
5. Mutinous action
6. Escape

With consideration given to the recommendations of the Unit and Institutional Classification Committees, the Warden shall recommend individuals being considered for longer term restrictive housing (LTRH) who meet the above criteria for TCP. The Central Office Multi-Disciplinary Review Team (MDRT) shall review and determine all initial assignments to TCP.

The MDRT will consider multiple factors, including clinical residential program requirements and Parole Eligibility Dates/Tentative Release Dates. If immediate admission into a non-restrictive housing clinical residential program is determined to be a viable option after a participant has been assigned to Phase I in SMU, the MDRT may consider this placement in lieu of TCP. In the event that the participant is removed from the clinical residential program, he may be placed in the controlled movement unit (TSCI, Housing Unit 2C) or, if his behavior warrants, be assigned to Immediate Segregation status in accordance with Policy 210.01 *Restrictive Housing*.

The MDRT may waive some or all phases of TCP for individuals assigned to TCP who complete the Violence Reduction Program (VRP) while in restrictive housing. Delays in admission to TCP may occur based on the need to control movement and for separation. (An example of that would be if there are multiple participants in a single event. They may all be eligible and approved for TCP, but would need to have distance and time separating their entrance into the program.)

Assignment of individuals who do not meet TCP criteria must be reviewed and approved by the MDRT. In such instances, written justification for the assignment must be provided to the MDRT by the Warden of the facility where the inmate resides. The Director/designee will determine the final disposition of the assignment request.

CAPACITY

TSCI Restrictive Housing shall provide housing for all TCP participants. The number of participants is limited only by the amount of overall bed space in TSCI restrictive housing. LTRH inmates approved for TCP by the MDRT may be assigned to any restrictive housing cell. All restrictive housing residents shall be assigned to a one-man cell, unless approved by the Director/designee.

GENERAL

The MDRT will enter all TCP assignments into *NICaMS Non-Clinical Program Tracking*. Designated facility staff shall be responsible for adding completion and/or refusal data for all following TCP program components.

Unit Managers/Unit Case Managers shall maintain weekly contact with all active participants and document this communication in *NICaMS Inmate Contact Notes*.

All participants may request to meet with a trained Intentional Peer Support Specialist (IPS). The meeting must follow identified IPS criteria and be approved and coordinated by the appropriate Unit Manager/designee.

STAFFING

A multi-discipline committee will meet weekly to review participant progress through TCP and formulate action plans for identified challenges. The TCP multi-discipline committee will include representatives from staff assigned to restrictive housing, mental health, program facilitators and TSCI administration. Facility intelligence staff may attend the meeting as available. A written summary of the content of these multi-discipline meetings – including challenges, solutions and unresolved issues – shall be maintained and stored on the facility P-drive for reference when needed.

PROGRAMMING

LTRH Behavior/Programming Plans for individuals identified for TCP shall be developed consistent with *Policy 210.01 - Restrictive Housing* and shall include the programs identified below. Incentives for compliance by a participant of TCP shall be consistent with policies for the restrictive housing.

Orientation to TCP shall be provided in person by a Unit Manager/Unit Case Manager within one week of assignment to TCP or, if transferred from another facility within one week of placement in TSCI restrictive housing. Completion of the orientation shall be documented by the Unit Manager/Unit Case Manager in *NICaMS Inmate Contact Notes* and by designated facility staff in *NICaMS Non-Clinical Program Tracking*.

After *Orientation to TCP*, all participants shall receive *TCP Preparing for Change* materials and instructions for completing the in-cell interactive journal. This journal shall be picked up by a Unit Manager/Unit Case Manager, reviewed for appropriate content and progress, and returned within 48 hours. Completion of *Preparing for Change* shall be documented by the Unit Manager/Unit Case

Manager in *NICaMS Inmate Contact Notes* and by designated facility staff in *NICaMS Non-Clinical Program Tracking*.

After successfully completing the *Preparing for Change* journal, participants shall participate in and complete *Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)* in a group format. These groups shall have no more than eight participants at the discretion of the Unit Manager in collaboration with unit management staff, facility intelligence staff and the Warden. Completion of *MRT* shall be documented by the Unit Manager/Unit Case Manager in *NICaMS Inmate Contact Notes* and by designated facility staff in *NICaMS Non-Clinical Program Tracking*.

Concurrent with MRT, participants shall receive the *Challenge Series* interactive journals. This journal series of seven booklets shall be completed one booklet at a time until series completion. The journals shall be picked up weekly by a Unit Manager/Unit Case Manager, reviewed for appropriate content and progress, and returned within 48 hours. Completion of the *Challenge Series* shall be documented by the Unit Manager/Unit Case Manager in *NICaMS Inmate Contact Notes* and by designated facility staff in *NICaMS Non-Clinical Program Tracking*.

BEHAVIOR

Participants shall be expected to demonstrate appropriate institutional behavior and complete all programming to successfully complete TCP.

The duration of TCP shall be determined by the participant's behavior and completion of all requirements in the program.

Participants who fail to successfully complete all behavioral and programming requirements shall remain on LTRH. Exceptions to this may be approved by the Director/designee in collaboration with the MDRT

PROMOTION TO LESS RESTRICTIVE HOUSING

Participants may be recommended for removal from LTRH upon successful completion of all requirements. Referrals may be submitted up to one week in advance of the projected completion date of all requirements.

Once a participant has completed all TCP programming and has consistently met behavior expectations for the immediately preceding four consecutive weeks, he shall be considered for transition to an appropriate less restrictive housing unit.

If denied promotion to a less restrictive environment, specific reasons for this denial shall be documented in the LTRH Hearing Comments. That decision shall be communicated in person to the participant by a Unit Manager/Unit Case Manager. A written copy of the decision and the reasons for the decision shall be provided at that time. The participant may appeal this decision to the NDCS Director via LTRH Appeal Form.

If approved, said transition shall occur as soon as appropriate bed space is available.

INMATE DISCIPLINE

A TCP participant's conduct in violation of NDCS rules may result in a Misconduct Report, as well as loss of some or all earned incentives at the discretion of Unit Manager/Unit Case Manager.

Effective: September 27, 2017
Revised: July 12, 2018
Revised: November 01, 2018
Revised: July 24, 2019
Revised: November 12, 2019