

<b>NEBRASKA</b> Good Life. Great Mission. <hr/> DEPT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES	POLICY <b>RESTRICTIVE HOUSING PEER MENTOR PROGRAM</b>		
	EFFECTIVE DATE December 31, 2019	NUMBER 210.02	PAGE 1 of 3
	STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY <b>This Policy is to be made available in law libraries or other inmate resource centers.</b>		

EFFECTIVE: June 30, 2017  
 REVISED: June 30, 2018  
 REVISED: December 31, 2019

Added the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution as a facility that will utilize the Restrictive Housing Peer Mentor Program. Procedure IV.B. – Mortified language to allow the Warden to determine the number of unpaid volunteer mentors. Reformatted to be consistent with Policy 001.01. Other minor word changes throughout.

APPROVED:

  
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 Scott R. Frakes, Director  
 Nebraska Department of Correctional Services

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## PURPOSE

To provide individuals classified to Longer-Term Restrictive Housing (LTRH) status access to trained peer support mentors from general population inmates as a means to aid LTRH inmates in transitioning to general population and increasing their chances of succeeding.

## GENERAL

The Nebraska State Penitentiary (NSP) and Tecumseh State Correctional Institution (TSCI) shall utilize a peer to peer mentor program for individuals assigned to LTRH under the provision of this policy.

## PROCEDURE

### I. SELECTION PROCESS

- A. When the institution determines the need for peer to peer mentors, a notice shall be posted for the general population to include the requirements listed in Procedure I.B. for the position(s). The posting will have opening/closing dates and whom to send inmate interview requests.
- B. Applicants will initially be screened by designated restrictive housing unit staff for, but not limited to: work/misconduct report history, programming completed, active security threat group involvement and potential for Sexual Assault/Sexual Victimization.
- C. Final applicants will be interviewed by the following staff: restrictive housing unit staff, restrictive housing unit Sergeant, Unit Administrator and others as designated by the Warden.
- D. Recommended applicants will be submitted to the Warden for final approval.

### II. MENTOR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- A. Individuals approved through the selection process must complete an approved, evidence based training program prior to working with individuals in restrictive housing.
- B. Training will include instructor lead, active participation, group work and personal study training.

### III. DUTIES

- A. Individuals approved through the selection process must successfully complete an approved Intentional Peer Support training program (Attachment A).
- B. All visits by mentors with mentees shall be documented.

### IV. INMATE PAY

- A. One full time mentor may be designated as the mentor coordinator and will be paid \$3.78 per day, five days per week. Designated restrictive housing unit staff will be assigned to complete work schedules, pay documents and work reports.

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B. For the purpose of the program, NSP and TSCI may have the following number of authorized mentors.

1. One full time mentor at \$3.78 per day.
2. Unpaid volunteer mentors as determined by the Warden.

C. Unpaid volunteer mentors shall receive the same training as paid mentors and will typically be individuals who have expressed interest, but do not wish to serve on a full time basis due to current work assignment, etc.

V. MOVEMENT

Mentors will be stripped searched entering and exiting restrictive housing. Mentors will be escorted on and off the galleries. Mentors will meet in assigned dayroom or conference room under staff supervision. Mentees will be restrained at all times.

REFERENCE

- I. STATUTORY REFERENCE - None noted
- II. NDCS POLICIES – None noted
- III. ATTACHMENTS
  - A. Intentional Peer Support Course Overview
- IV. AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION (ACA) STANDARDS – None noted