References
Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 71.05 and 71.34
Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 10.77.140

Scope
The Spokane County Community Services Department (CSD), the Spokane County Behavioral Health (Administrative Services Organization) Division (SCRBH) and its network providers.

1. Policy

1.1. The CSD SCRBH contracted agencies that provide crisis and Involuntary Treatment Act service (ITAs) shall adhere to the policy, RCW, and Designated Crisis Responder (DCR) Protocols for both mental health (MH) and substance use disorders (SUD) ITAs.

2. Procedures/Mechanisms Mental Health

2.1. The CSD SCRBH shall require that network providers comply with the designation of Crisis Responders to perform the duties of involuntary investigation and detention, and shall be the responsibility of the individual county governing bodies in accordance with the requirements of RCW 71.05 and 71.34.

2.1.1. Crisis Services is a contracted service which is charged with the responsibility of implementing the ITA, RCW 71.05, and RCW 71.34 twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week, three hundred sixty-five (365) days per year.

2.1.2. DCRs are experienced, knowledgeable, and trained in investigating and evaluating persons with behavioral health disorders (mental health (MH)
and substance use disorders (SUD)) to determine the necessity of commitment to inpatient psychiatric or Secure Withdrawal Management and Stabilization Services treatment facilities and to ensure transportation issues and court related responsibilities are completed. DCR status is reviewed annually through contract monitoring. Designation is applied for and granted upon the completion of training or certification of qualifications submitted to the CSD SCRBH credentialing committee.

2.2. The CSD SCRBH’s contracted provider, who is providing community support services to Individuals under Less Restrictive Alternative (LRA) court orders, must document the compliance of Individuals in their service area with the conditions of LRA court orders by:

2.2.1. Conducting periodic evaluations of each committed Individual for release from or continuation of an involuntary treatment order. Evaluations must be recorded in the clinical record, and must occur at least monthly for ninety (90) and one hundred eighty (180) day commitments; and

2.2.2. A DCR must be notified if non-compliance with the LRA order impairs the Individual sufficiently to warrant detention or evaluation for detention and petitioning for revocation of the LRA court order.

2.3. The CSD SCRBH’s contracted provider, who is providing community support services to Individuals under LRA court orders as part of a conditional release, must engage with Individuals in their service area with the conditions of LRA court orders by:

2.3.1. Participating and engaging in court appointed multi-disciplinary transition team(s) in the supervision and support of the Individual for the duration of the LRA order; and

2.3.2. Participating and contributing to the creation of monitoring plan when determined necessary by the multi-disciplinary team.

2.4. The CSD SCRBH’s contracted provider shall support and assist the CSD SCRBH’s efforts in tracking and monitoring Individuals discharged from inpatient hospitalizations on an LRA under RCW 71.05.320 to ensure compliance with LRA requirements.

2.5. The CSD SCRBH network provider must ensure that when a Peace Officer or DCR escorts an Individual to a facility, the DCR must take reasonable precautions to safeguard the Individual’s property including:

2.5.1. Safeguarding the Individual’s property in the immediate vicinity of the point of apprehension;

2.5.2. Safeguarding belongings not in the immediate vicinity if there may be possible danger to those belongings; and

2.5.3. Taking reasonable precautions to lock and otherwise secure the Individual’s home or other property as soon as possible after the Individual’s initial detention.

2.6. The contracted provider follows the protocols for “DCRs” at a minimum.

2.6.1. The CSD SCRBH must have policies and procedures for crisis and ITA services that implement the following requirements:
2.6.1.1. No DCR or crisis intervention worker shall be required to respond to a private home or other private location to stabilize or treat a person in crisis, or to evaluate a person for potential detention under the state's ITA, unless a second trained individual, determined by the clinical team supervisor, on-call supervisor, or individual professional acting alone, based on a risk assessment for potential violence, accompanies them;

2.6.1.2. The second individual may be a law enforcement officer, a mental health professional (MHP), a mental health care provider (MHCP), a mental health paraprofessional (MHPP) who has received training under RCW 71.05.715, a certified peer counselor (CPC), or other first responder, such as fire or ambulance personnel;

2.6.1.3. Clear guidelines and expectations for when a CPC responds to a crisis, ensuring they are accompanied by an MHP or with a qualified MHCP under a Washington State Department of Health waiver [WAC 206-341-0302] as long as at least one (1) MHP is available twenty-four/seven (24/7) for any MHCP or peer to contact for consultation;

2.6.1.4. No retaliation may be taken against an Individual who, following consultation with the clinical team, refuses to go on a private home or other private location alone;

2.6.1.5. Every DCR or crisis services provider dispatched on a crisis visit shall have prompt access to information about any history of dangerousness or potential dangerousness of the Individual; and

2.6.1.6. Every DCR or crisis services provider who engages in crisis service visits shall be provided a wireless telephone or comparable device.

2.7. The CSD SCRBH’s contracted Crisis Response and ITA evaluation provider must have a plan to provide training for crisis outreach staff.

3. Monitoring

3.1. This policy will be monitored through the annual contracted provider monitoring of Crisis and ITA services, which shall monitor adherence to the DCR Protocols. Refer to the CSD SCRBH QM - 8 Program Monitoring for Policies and Procedures on crisis provider monitoring.

3.2. The CSD SCRBH shall monitor DCR staffing levels to ensure capacity needs and response times are met by the contracted agencies.