

NEBRASKA Good Life. Great Mission. DEPT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES	ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION		
	RISK-NEEDS RESPONSIVITY ASSESSMENT		
	REVISION DATE September 30, 2017	NUMBER 201.14	PAGE 1 of 5
STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY Official Distribution Only			

EFFECTIVE: November 30, 2016
 REVISED: September 30, 2017

SUMMARY of REVISION/REVIEW

Annual review-Major Revisions please read carefully.

APPROVED:



 Scott R. Frakes, Director
 Nebraska Department of Correctional Services

 <p>NEBRASKA Good Life. Great Mission. DEPT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES</p>	ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION		
	RISK-NEEDS RESPONSIVITY ASSESSMENT		
	REVISION DATE September 30, 2017	NUMBER 201.14	PAGE 2 of 5
	STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY Official Distribution Only		

PURPOSE

This policy establishes guidelines and procedures governing the use of a risk-needs-responsivity (R-N-R) assessment tool. A properly validated assessment tool is essential for an evidenced-based correctional system and will drive many decisions related to an inmate's programming, classification, placement and parole. The Nebraska Department of Correctional Services utilizes the Static Risk and Offender Needs Guide, Revised (STRONG-R), as its R-N-R assessment tool.

GENERAL

This Administrative Regulation was developed to ensure staff understands the assessment process. The case management staff is responsible for conducting the assessments and making clinical and non-clinical programming referrals for the assessed inmate, based upon the assessment scores. Additionally, this Administrative Regulation outlines when/how often assessments are to be conducted.

PROCEDURE

I. Guidelines for R-N-R Completion

- A. An accurate and concise review of an inmate's criminal history is required before completing the R-N-R assessment. It is essential to determining an inmate's risk and needs. The R-N-R cannot be completed without this information being entered into the Criminal Conviction Record (CCR) of the R-N-R system. This information can be obtained from the NCIC, NCJIS, Pre-sentence Investigation (PSI) and/or Court Records.
- B. R-N-R assessments require an in person interview with the inmate. Should the inmate refuse to participate, the refusal should be documented on the Assessments.com website and on the Parole Board Guidelines.
- C. All staff will complete a STRONG-R interview guide to ensure that the assessment is completed in a manner that will ensure the fidelity of the assessment tool.
- D. Blank interview guides are located at Q:\Documents & Reports\Classification Information\STRONG-R Interview Guides. Initial assessments and reassessments have distinct guides which can be found in this folder.
- E. Completed interview guides are to be saved in each inmate's management file folder. Both completed initial and reassessment interview guides will be saved in the same folder. EXAMPLE: A guide for an interview completed for hypothetical inmate Jane Doe, #999999, would be saved at Q:\Documents & Reports\Classification Information\Inmate Management File\Doe, Jane 999999.
- F. The file name for the digital copy of the interview guide will be made of three sequential components: inmate ID, I or R ("I" should be used for initial assessments and "R" for reassessments) and date the guide was completed (mm-dd-yy). Each of the components should be separated by a hyphen. EXAMPLE: An initial assessment completed December 31st 2017 for hypothetical inmate Jane Doe #999999 will have the file name "999999-I-12-31-17"

 <p>NEBRASKA Good Life. Great Mission. DEPT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES</p>	ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION		
	RISK-NEEDS RESPONSIVITY ASSESSMENT		
	REVISION DATE September 30, 2017	NUMBER 201.14	PAGE 3 of 5
	STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY Official Distribution Only		

II. Receiving Institutions (DEC-NCYF-NCCW)

- A. R-N-R assessments will be completed on every new inmate entering the department within 30 days of admission to the receiving facility, to exclude those who will discharge within 6 months.
- B. Existing inmates who have not yet been transferred to their permanent facility within six months will not be reassessed unless there was an episode of violence – usually a 2H violation or more serious misconduct report (See Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Rules and Regulations, Title 68, Administrative Code).
- C. Those who were assessed and then released on bond will not be reassessed unless convicted of a new crime while on bond. A review of the CCR should be completed to ensure that there is updated information.
- D. An inmate who has been recently revoked from parole will be reassessed if they have at least six months until their TRD. WEC or community corrections returnees will be reassessed at DEC only if there has been an episode of violence – a 2H MR or more serious or there is a new crime that needs added to the CCR.
- E. The results of all RNR assessments will be accessible to behavioral health staff and will be used to guide decisions on the need for clinical assessment. Initial clinical assessments will be completed within 90 days of arrival. The R-N-R assessment tool will be used to help determine which inmates receive a clinical assessment.
 1. Inmates scoring as low risk/low needs will not receive assessment for clinical programming unless behavioral health staff have information supporting the need for additional assessment. Should a clinician feel the inmate is in need of further assessment, they will send a request to the Behavioral Health Administrator along with supporting documentation.
 2. Inmates scoring as moderate risk/moderate needs will be referred for non-clinical evidence based programming including: Thinking for a Change, Moral Reconation Therapy, Living in Balance, and Beyond Anger. The need for clinical assessment will be determined by behavioral health staff.
 3. Inmates scoring as high risk/high needs will be referred to the appropriate clinical supervisor for additional clinical assessment by behavioral health staff, consistent with the inmate's identified needs.

III. Reassessments

- A. If an inmate's TRD is under three years or a parole hearing has been set, reassessments will occur every six months or at a significant event.
- B. If an inmate's TRD is over three years and no parole hearing has been set, reassessments will occur every 12 months or at a significant event.

 <p>NEBRASKA Good Life. Great Mission. DEPT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES</p>	ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION		
	RISK-NEEDS RESPONSIVITY ASSESSMENT		
	REVISION DATE September 30, 2017	NUMBER 201.14	PAGE 4 of 5
	STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY Official Distribution Only		

A significant event is defined as a violation or infraction that is a Class 2H or more serious infraction that resulted in a loss of good time, restrictive housing or an institutional transfer. In addition, this would include significant life events. Examples of such could include divorce/ marital/ relationship changes, losses involving home, employment, or a significant person in the inmate's life and/ or new criminal convictions. Administration and Case Managers are expected to use their discretion and professional expertise to determine if an inmate needs to be reassessed.

IV. Updating Criminal Conviction Records (CCRs)

After the inmates' initial assessment, whenever a R-N-R is completed the staff member doing the assessment will review the criminal history and update the status on cases that were previously pending/unresolved and look for new cases that are new since the previous CCR. All changes will be updated in the CCR.

It is important to note that only those who have been formally trained by a certified trainer can enter the criminal conviction record into the R-N-R system. In addition, no staff can utilize or administer the assessment until such training has occurred. This is necessary in order to maintain the fidelity of the instrument and inter-rater reliability.

V. Parole Guidelines

Key Review- Nebraska law only allows for the Board of Parole to schedule a parole hearing for those inmates which the Board of Parole intends to parole. A key review is defined as a parole review in which the inmate is already eligible for parole or will become eligible for parole within the next 13 months and therefore, may be set for a parole hearing. Given that the key review date is when the BOP may decide to schedule a parole hearing, current parole guidelines must be available. This requires that an updated guideline be completed for each inmate prior to each hearing or review.

The Parole Guidelines require three items:

- Severity of the inmate's current offense: the offense severity score specifically acknowledges the instant offense and makes the decision standard slightly higher for violent and sex offenses
- Completion of core risk reducing treatment programs: reflects the status of inmates' engagement in residential substance use treatment (RTC and SAU), sex offender treatment (iHeLP, oHeLP, and bHeLP), and cognitive behavioral programs (MRT and T4C).
- In prison behavior: provides the board with information about guilty misconduct reports the inmate received within the most recent six months.

The information needed to score all of these items is available in NICaMS with the exception of completion of core risk reducing treatment programs. Some details about treatment and program completion are available electronically, but all responses for this question must be supplemented with information from inmates' physical case files.

 <p>Good Life. Great Mission.</p> <p>DEPT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES</p>	ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION		
	RISK-NEEDS RESPONSIVITY ASSESSMENT		
	REVISION DATE September 30, 2017	NUMBER 201.14	PAGE 5 of 5
STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY			
Official Distribution Only			

REFERENCE

- I. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, Title 68, Administrative Code
- II. Attachments - None
- III. AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION (ACA) STANDARDS – None noted