

# Writing an Effective Hold

University Hospital  
The Mobile Crisis Team

# Objectives

- Learn the components of the Application for Emergency Admission.
- Learn to successfully write a Statement of Belief.

# State Mental Hold

# WHO CAN WRITE A HOLD

- Any psychiatrist, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed physician, **health officer**, parole officer, police officer, or sheriff may take a person into custody if they have reason to believe that the person is a mentally ill person subject to hospitalization by court order under division (B) of section 5122.01 of the Revised Code, **and** represents a substantial risk of physical harm to self or others if allowed to remain at liberty pending examination.

# THE “HOLD”

- The State Mental Hold is a written statement that is given to a hospital by a transporting entity that states the circumstances under which the person was taken into custody and the reasons for the belief that further examination is needed. The State Mental Hold is comprised of two major components the Statement of Belief and the Statement of Observation.

# STATEMENT OF BELIEF

- **Statement of Belief:** Must be filled out by one of the following, a psychiatrist, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed physician, health, parole or police officer, sheriff or deputy sheriff. The Statement of Belief is effective for 24 hours pending further evaluation.

# STATEMENT OF OBSERVATION

- **Statement of Observation:** Can only be completed by a psychiatrist, licensed physician, or licensed clinical psychologist, if applicable. The Statement of Observation is effective up to 3 days of court days.

# STATEMENT OF OBSERVATION

- A person who has been taken to the hospital, shall be examined by hospital staff within twenty-four hours after arrival. After the examination, if the chief clinical officer believes that the person is a mentally ill person subject to hospitalization by court order, the chief clinical officer will complete the Statement of Observation and may detain the person for not more than three court days following the examination.



# REQUIREMENT

- Every reasonable and appropriate effort shall be made to take persons into custody in the least conspicuous manner possible. A person taking the patient into custody shall explain to the patient:
  - the name, professional designation, and agency affiliation of the person taking the patient into custody;
  - that the custody-taking is not a criminal arrest;
  - and that the person is being taken for examination by mental health professional at a specified mental health facility identified by name.

# DEFINITION

(§ 5122.01 Revised Code)

- (A) Mental illness means a substantial disorder of thought, mood, perception, orientation, or memory that grossly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality, or ability to meet the ordinary demands of life.

# DEFINITION

(§ 5122.01 Revised Code)

- (B) Mentally ill persons subject to hospitalization by court order” means a mentally ill person who, because of the person’s illness:

# #1 CRITERIA - A

(§ 5122.01 Revised Code)

- Represents a substantial risk of physical harm to self as manifested by evidence of threats or, or attempts at, suicide or serious self-inflicted bodily harm;

# #1 CRITERIA - B

(§ 5122.01 Revised Code)

- Represents a substantial risk of physical harm to others as manifested by evidence of recent homicidal or other violent behavior, evidence of recent threats that place another in reasonable fear of violent behavior and serious physical harm, or other evidence of present dangerousness;

# #1 CRITERIA - C

(§ 5122.01 Revised Code)

- Represents a substantial and immediate risk of serious physical impairment or injury to self as manifested by evidence that the person is unable to provide for and is not providing for the person's basic physical needs because of the person's mental illness and that appropriate provision for those needs cannot be made immediately available in the community; or

# #1 CRITERIA - D

(§ 5122.01 Revised Code)

- Would benefit from treatment in a hospital for his mental illness and is in need of such treatment as manifested by evidence of behavior that creates a grave and imminent risk to substantial rights of other or himself.

## #2 CRITERIA

(§ 5122.01 Revised Code)

- Represents a substantial risk of physical harm to him/herself or others if allowed to be at liberty pending examination.  
Therefore, it is requested that said person be admitted to the above named facility.



# Writing the Statement of Belief

- The name of the facility, the patient's name, and the date should be included on the front page of the State Mental hold. The criteria for which the patient is being taken into criteria should also be checked.

# Writing the Statement of Belief

- Include a brief description of demographics and a synopsis of what circumstances involved you.
- Include an explanation/justification of the criteria for which you are signing the Statement of Belief, for example if you say the patient is in imminent risk of suicide, explain why you believe this to be true.

# Writing the Statement of Belief

- Include behaviors, symptoms, and statements made by the patient on the scene.
- State what you hope to accomplish by having the person brought to the hospital, i.e., that patient would benefit from further evaluation and treatment.
- Document how the personal items and home are secured.

# **COLLATERAL INFORMATION**

- A Statement of Belief can be signed based on collateral information provided by a reliable source, such as family members, friend, case managers, police officers, and/or observers who have no secondary gain in reporting said behaviors.

# COLLATERAL INFORMATION

- An earnest attempt should be made to assess or observe the patient's behavior before writing the Statement of Belief. In collecting collateral information, the Statement of Belief should specify, who provided the information, their relationship to the patient, and contact information should the patient go to Probate Court.

# **FAMILY NOTIFICATION**

**(IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORC §5122.18)**

- Families must be made aware of the hospitalization when patients are taken into custody.
  - The Health Officer may contact and completed the required section on the SOB
  - The hospital staff

# **SIGNATURE**

- The hold must be signed, dated, timed and “Title/Position/Badge”

# **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**