RECORDING CONTACTS INVOLVING MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

Tracking the contacts of alleged mentally ill and homeless individuals has risen sharply in recent years for both internal and external needs. Until now, the Department has not had an effective way to document or check for these incidents. Therefore, an additional 15 statistical (“stat”) codes were created for this purpose. This will greatly enhance the Department’s ability to find and report the amount of resources and outcomes of these encounters. The ability for the Department to collect this information can accurately show the amount of calls, type of calls, and time patrol units spend on mentally ill and homeless-related incidents. By tracking these contacts, the Department can seek to allocate specific resources to areas that are greatly affected by these types of problems. The long-term goal is to be able to address social issues with proper resources which should allow patrol units to handle crime-related calls.

In order to accomplish this, we must first be effective in documenting these types of calls. For purposes of this newsletter, mental illness refers, in general, diagnosable mental disorders or perceived ones with conditions involving:

- Significant changes in thinking, emotion, and/or behavior
- Distress and/or problems functioning in social, work, or family activities.

In summary, if a call is dispatched or generated with a 918 code, its clearance will require an 89x stat code along with the information necessary for an 840-843 stat code (traffic stop/pedestrian stop). If an URN is drawn as a result of these calls (stat code 461-467), then this stat code should be included in the MDC/CAD clearance.

46x - STAT CODES (Five Additional Codes)

Five new “46x” stat codes were added to the Statistical Code Guide/Radio Code Book (SH-R-316). These codes should be used for generating an URN number when the 46x code is the lowest stat code involved. If the 46x stat code is not the lowest code used for reporting the incident, then the appropriate 46x stat code should be included as
a secondary code and used to clear the call in the Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD) clearance screen:

**461 – Person(s) Mentally Ill (currently existing code)**

Code 461 is used to report when an alleged mentally ill person is placed on an involuntary "hold" for an evaluation and/or treatment pursuant to 5150 WIC.

**462 – Person(s) Mentally Ill – Escapee (currently existing code)**

Code 462 is used to report the same as stat code 461, but when the patient escaped from a mental health facility having been committed to that facility through a “hold.”

**463 - Person(s) Mentally Ill – Self Admitted**

Code 463 is used to report incidents which could otherwise have resulted in an involuntary 72-hour hold under authority of § 5150 WIC, but where the patient opted for self-admittance to any of the following facilities instead:

- A County designated facility per the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act (§§ 5150/5585.50 WIC) or
- In-patient mental health rehabilitation center (MHRC) or
- A Psychiatric health facility (PHF) or
- A private facility licensed by the California Department of Health Care Services for in-patient treatment of mental illness

**464 - Person(s) Mentally Ill – Mental Health Unit Deferral**

Code 464 is used to report incidents which involve person(s) with mental illness that do not rise to the level of a hold under authority of § 5150 WIC, but where the patient self-admits for up to 24 hours at any of the following facilities:

- A mental health rehabilitation center (MHRC)
- A psychiatric health facility (PHF)
- A licensed community treatment facility
- A community residential treatment system
- A skilled nursing facility with special treatment programs
- A similar private facility licensed by the California Department of Health Care Services for in-patient or out-patient treatment of mental illness

**465 - Person(s) Mentally Ill — Assessed / No Further Action Required**

Code 465 is used to report incidents involving person(s) with some apparent or confirmed mental illness that does not rise to the level of a hold under authority of § 5150 WIC. This may include patients where the disengagement option is exercised, as described in Field Operations Directive 16-003.
466 - Person(s) Mentally Ill — Case Management (MET Only)

Code 466 is intended for use by the Mental Evaluation Team (MET) personnel when documenting case management activities. An example of this code’s use is the initiation of a case management file to track Department efforts to help address the needs of a high utilizer or chronic consumer of police services who has some degree of apparent or confirmed mental illness. Cases involving stat code 466 shall be co-investigated with the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health (DMH).

467 - Person(s) Mentally Ill — Threat Assessment

Code 467 is intended to be utilized by patrol or Mental Evaluation Team (MET) staff when documenting threat assessments associated with person(s) having some degree of apparent or confirmed mental illness. An example of this code is the initiation of a threat assessment case to track Department efforts to assess the perceived threat of a student with some degree of apparent or confirmed mental illness who has posted on a social media site what may be perceived as threatening material regarding another student or faculty member. Threat assessment cases involving stat code 467 shall be co-investigated with the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health (DMH).

Note: For incidents involving an URN generated with stat codes 461-467, a secondary code is necessary to clear the call via MDC or CAD terminal; refer to stat codes 890-897.

788 - STAT CODE (Assist DMH)

Prior to the implementation of stat code 788, Department members had no specific code to log routine assistance to personnel from the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health (DMH). Stat code 788 shall be included when patrol or MET deputies clear any call/observation/detail involving assistance provided by the following DMH special teams:

- Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams (PMRT)
- School Threat Assessment Response Team (START)
- Assisted Outpatient Treatment – Outreach and Engagement Team (AOT-O&E)
- Homeless Outreach Mobile Engagement (HOME)
- Mental Health Alert Team (MHAT)
- Emergency Response Teams (ERT)
- Psychiatric Emergency Teams (PET)

RADIO CODE “918” vs “5150”

Section 5150 refers to the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC). The Department does not recognize “5150” as an approved radio code.
Only approved variations of 918 may be used as a radio code (918, P918, 918V, or P918V). Therefore, CAD is programmed to disallow the use of “5150” when entering calls for service, observations (obs.), or detail activities in the field.

CLEARING CALLS WITH RADIO CODE “918,” “P918,” “918V,” or “P918V”

Due to past problems in checking CAD for the final outcome in calls for service involving contacts with the mentally ill, the Department has established five new stat codes and two new rules for clearing calls involving radio code 918, P918, 918V, or P918V. The requirement to clear a call in CAD is the same if any of these 918 code combinations appear in any order of a call (e.g. 921, 925, P918 call).

89x STAT CODES (MDC/CAD Clearance Codes)

89x stat codes are designated for contacts and arrests involving persons with mental illness and/or homeless indications. CAD is programmed to require at least ONE of the following stat codes to be entered when clearing the call if at least one radio code for the call/obs./detail includes radio code 918, P918, 918V, or P918V. The stat code 89x is required for “918” calls, but are optional for clearing any self-generated contacts (traffic stops, etc.) that are not mental health or homeless-related.

Note: The 89x stat codes may not be used to draw an URN number, as these codes are only recognized in CAD.

Calls involving radio code “918” also require the same clearance information as used for contacts involving stat codes 840-843 (traffic/pedestrian stops). Without the 840-843 clearance data, the Department would only be able to show the total number of reported incidents involving the mentally ill and/or homeless. In reality, each incident may involve more than one patient, and the data obtained from total incidents should reflect a larger, true number of human contacts made by deputies. Capturing the 840-842 stat code data is important because the total number of contacts will be higher than the total number of incidents. Knowing the actual number of contacts help analysts calculate more accurately the ratio of force used per mentally-ill person contacted, not per incident reported.

890 - Contact Made: Person(s) With No Indication of Mental Illness

Stat code 890 should be included when clearing any call/obs./detail where radio code 918, P918, 918V, or P918V was used and the subject of the call was located, contacted, and found to have no apparent indication of mental illness.

Use of this code allows analysts to determine percentages of calls that allegedly involved mental illness as a factor but were unfounded when the deputy made contact.
891 - Contact Made:  **Person(s) With Indication of Mental Illness**

Stat code 891 should be included when clearing any call/obs./detail where radio code 918, P918, 918V, or P918V was used and the subject of the incident was located, contacted, and found to have some apparent indication of mental illness.

The level of apparent mental illness does not have to rise to the level of § 5150 WIC criteria. Many individuals may have some degree of apparent mental illness, or may be claiming to have a diagnosis of mental illness, but appear able to care for themselves and pose no apparent danger to themselves or the public.

Use of this code allows analysts to determine percentages of calls that allegedly involve mental illness as a factor, and that allegation was confirmed when the deputy made contact.

892 - Arrest:  **Person(s) With No Indication of Mental Illness**

Stat code 892 should be included when clearing any call/obs./detail where radio code 918, P918, 918V, or P918V was used and the subject of the call was located, contacted, and arrested for any crime, excluding traffic infractions. Incidents cleared using this stat code indicate the arrestee had no apparent indication of mental illness.

Use of this code allows analysts to determine percentages of calls that allegedly involve mental illness as a factor but was later unfounded when the deputy made contact.

893 - Arrest:  **Person(s) With Indication of Mental Illness**

Stat code 893 should be used when clearing any call/obs./detail where radio code 918, P918, 918V, or P918V was used and the subject of the incident was located, contacted, arrested for any crime, excluding traffic infractions, and the arrestee had an apparent indication(s) of mental illness.

Use of this code allows analysts to determine what percentage of calls that allegedly involve mental illness as a factor and was later confirmed when the deputy made contact.

894 - Unable to Locate Person(s) With Alleged Mental Illness

Stat code 894 should be included when clearing any call/obs./detail where radio code 918, P918, 918V, or P918V was used and the subject of the incident was not able to be located, therefore, a determination of mental illness was not possible.

**LOGGING COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE MENTAL EVALUATION TEAM (MET)**

Three new stat codes have been added to track communication efforts between patrol deputies and the Department’s Mental Evaluation Teams (MET). Based on the
circumstances of the incident, at least one of the three codes should be included in the clearance for a reportable incident where an URN is generated with stat code 461-465.

895 - Consultation with Mental Evaluation Team

Code 895 should be entered in the CAD clearance when the handling deputy discussed the circumstances involving a person with apparent mental illness with MET prior to the conclusion of the incident. This code is used when the MET desk has been consulted. This code is also appropriate for use when a MET responds to assist in the field.

896 - Notification made to Mental Evaluation Team

Code 896 should be entered in the CAD clearance when the handling deputy makes a notification via phone call, email or fax to MET after handling the incident to a conclusion. In the future, policy may mandate notifications to MET once a mental health triage “help” desk is established at the Department Operations Center (DOC).

An example of a MET notification (code 896) is when patrol has identified a chronic user of police services who needs MET follow-up. Such notification results in a risk assessment and monitoring program (RAMP) intervention plan and follow-up by MET and DMH management.

MET notifications can be made by email or fax and include a copy of the Incident Report (SH-R-49) and the California Department of Health Care Services form DHCS 1801 (AKA the 5150 WIC Application form), if a 5150 WIC “hold” was placed. Supporting documents may be scanned and emailed to the “MET Notifications” email group or faxed to (626) 258-3020.

897 - Mental Evaluation Team Was Unavailable

Code 897 should be entered when consultation with MET was not possible due to the unavailability of MET personnel.

In cases where MET is unavailable for consultation, use stat code 897 and 896 to document that an attempt was made to consult with MET and a copy of the incident report was emailed or faxed to MET.

LOGGING CONTACTS WITH HOMELESS PERSON(S)

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “A homeless person is an individual without permanent housing who may live on the streets; stay in a shelter, mission, single room occupancy facility, vehicle, or abandoned building; or in any other unstable or non-permanent situation.” [Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C., 254b)] Other qualifications and descriptions of homelessness are obtainable online from the National Health Care for the Homeless Council.
898 - Contact Made: Person(s) with Indication(s) of Homelessness

Stat code 898 should be used whenever field personnel make contact with anyone who claims to be homeless, or who appears to meet the above definition of homelessness. The call/obs./detail clearance should include stat code 898 if no arrest is made.

899 - Arrest: Person(s) with Indication(s) of Homelessness

Stat code 899 should be used when contact is made with a homeless person and is arrested as a result of the call/obs./detail, excluding traffic infractions. A person stating they are homeless during the contact or booking process is sufficient to use this code.

Information regarding the content of this newsletter may be directed to the Mental Evaluation Team via email or phone (626) 258-3002.

References

LASD Field Operations Directive 16-003 - Calls For Service Involving Mentally Ill Persons

LASD Statistical Code Guide (Intranet Link)

External links
https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/warning-signs-of-mental-illness
http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Documents/MHRehabilitationCtr.pdf
http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Documents/PsychiatricHealthFacility.pdf
http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/MH-Licensing.aspx
http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/MH-Licensing.aspx
http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/MH-Licensing.aspx
https://www.nhchc.org/faq/official-definition-homelessness/

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