

ROLES IN CORRECTIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CARE

MODULE SEVENTEEN

	Correctional Officers	Mental Health Staff
Mission	Maintain safety and security of the facility for incarcerated persons and staff.	Provide treatment to improve functioning of incarcerated individuals.
Culture	Perception: based on application of universal rules, authority of officers in relation to incarcerated persons, punitive sanctions for violations.	Based on clinical relationship with client/patient, informed consent regarding choices, and negotiated compliance.
Beliefs About Mental Disorders	May perceive mental disorders as character flaws. May view negative behaviors as deserving of punishment. May resent that incarcerated persons have access to free services that are not accessible to some others in the community.	Trained that mental disorders are result of a combination of biological and social causes. May view negative behaviors as indications of the need for treatment.
Challenges For Collaboration	May be perceived as harsh or punitive.	May be perceived as soft, coddling, or protecting incarcerated persons from consequences of bad behavior.

