**Referral Process for Dementia Behavioral Support Program (DBSP)**

The purpose of this document is to provide direction and clarification when making referrals to the Dementia Behavioral Support Program (DBSP). While having any kind of dementia can make an individual more vulnerable, it does not inherently mean they are at risk.

**When to Refer to the DBSP Directly:**

In addition to working on policy and advocacy efforts related to the support of persons with dementia, the DBSP may work directly with individuals who meet any of the following criteria:

**Expressing physically aggressive behaviors which result in injury to themselves or others**

* Having been admitted to an Institute of Mental Disease (IMD) or other psychiatric hospital or Dementia Behavioral Stabilization setting due to dysregulation and/or physically-aggressive behaviors resulting in injury to themselves or others;
* Indication that the level of behavioral expressions is putting them at risk of hospitalization to address specific behavioral needs;
* Indication that they are at risk of losing their housing/placement due to behavioral expressions;
* Having received a 30-day notice of eviction due to their behavioral expressions; and
* Involvement with law enforcement because of behavioral expressions that put them or others at risk.

Any of the above situations should result in a direct referral or warm hand off to the DBSP – Joy Schmidt [Schmidt.joy@countyofdane.com](mailto:Schmidt.joy@countyofdane.com) or 608-286-8133 following a verbal approval from the appointed decision maker.

**When NOT to Refer to the DBSP Directly:**

* If the situation does not involve any of the above criteria; and
* If it appears that, the person with dementia is at risk, but not due to any of the above factors.

Such calls to the Helpline are screened by the Intake Social Workers to determine if a report will be initiated.

Any calls involving a person with dementia who is at risk and does not meet the criteria for a referral to the DBSP are screened according to established intake procedures.

\*\* *The DBSP does not act as an investigator or replace the role of an investigator. \*\**

If an EAN/AAR report is taken and assigned, the assigned social worker can contact the DBSP as needed for consultation and involvement as appropriate. This is especially true if concerns identified are related to escalation of behavioral expressions as noted under “When to Refer to the DBSP” section of this policy.

The DBSP may support other APS staff in their work for persons who have dementia, but would only receive a direct referral for those situations identified in this policy. Otherwise, they are available for support and consultation on other open cases within APS.