

Crisis Intervention Policy (3.4)

Good Days Adolescent Special Needs Center, LLC – Fort Myers, FL

Good Days Adolescent Special Needs Center (GDC) is committed to ensuring the safety, dignity, and well-being of all students and staff. This policy establishes a structured and therapeutic approach to crisis prevention and intervention that prioritizes de-escalation, safety, and the preservation of student rights. Crisis intervention shall always be handled in a calm, professional, and trauma-informed manner.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedures for recognizing, preventing, and responding to behavioral crises. A behavioral crisis is defined as any situation in which a student's behavior poses a risk of harm to self or others, or results in significant disruption to the safety and order of the Center.

Scope

This policy applies to all GDC staff, contractors, and volunteers who interact with students. All personnel are required to follow the procedures described herein and to participate in required crisis prevention and response training.

Guiding Principles

- All interventions must prioritize the physical and emotional safety of students and staff.
- Prevention and early intervention strategies are the preferred methods of addressing escalating behavior.
- All actions must maintain respect for the student's dignity and comply with applicable laws and policies prohibiting seclusion or physical restraint (see Policy 3.5).
- Staff must employ trauma-informed and individualized strategies that consider each student's emotional and sensory needs.

Prevention Strategies

GDC emphasizes proactive behavior support and staff awareness to prevent crises.

Preventive strategies include:

- Maintaining consistent routines and clear expectations.
- Identifying early warning signs of distress or agitation.
- Utilizing calming techniques such as redirection, sensory supports, and positive reinforcement.
- Creating and implementing individualized Crisis Prevention Plans (CPPs) for students with known behavioral risks.

Crisis Response Procedures

When a behavioral crisis occurs, staff are required to follow a structured response plan to ensure safety and control:

1. ****Stay Calm and Assess:**** Maintain a composed demeanor and assess the level of risk.
2. ****Ensure Safety:**** Remove other students and staff from immediate danger if necessary.

3. **Engage in De-escalation:** Use calm verbal cues, offer choices, and reduce sensory stimuli.
4. **Seek Assistance:** Notify the Director or designated crisis-trained staff for support.
5. **Contact Emergency Services:** If the situation poses imminent danger and cannot be controlled safely, call 911.
6. **Document the Incident:** Complete the Behavior/Crisis Intervention Report Form promptly after the incident.

Post-Crisis Procedures

After a crisis has been resolved, staff must engage in debriefing and follow-up activities to promote recovery and continuous improvement:

- Conduct a **student debriefing** to help the individual process the event and identify coping strategies.
- Conduct a **staff debriefing** to evaluate the response and identify areas for improvement.
- Notify parents or guardians of the incident on the same day.
- Review the incident with the Director to determine if modifications to the student's Behavior Support Plan or Crisis Prevention Plan are necessary.

Documentation

All crisis events must be documented on the official Behavior/Crisis Intervention Report Form. Documentation must include a description of the incident, staff response, outcome, and any injuries sustained. Reports are to be reviewed by the Director and securely stored in the student's file.

Training

All staff will receive initial and annual training in crisis prevention, de-escalation techniques, and emergency procedures. Training will include identifying triggers, verbal de-escalation skills, non-physical intervention strategies, and post-crisis documentation.

Prohibited Practices

Under no circumstances shall staff:

- Use seclusion, physical restraint, or mechanical devices to control behavior.
- Employ punitive or retaliatory actions.
- Use threats, humiliation, or verbal abuse.
- Restrict access to basic needs such as food, water, rest, or bathroom use.

Review and Oversight

The Director is responsible for reviewing all crisis reports, ensuring compliance with this policy, and implementing corrective actions when necessary. This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as required to reflect best practices in crisis prevention and intervention.

Approved: December 2025

Next Review: December 2026