

**DOC 400.410 Assignments to Specialized Units**

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**POLICY:**

I. OCO suggests clarifying the definition of “specialized units.” (This should include the addition of a clear and comprehensive definition of “mental health units.”) OCO suggests that the following units be explicitly identified in the policy as specialized units:

- Residential Treatment Units, to include SOU, BAR, and TEC
- Skill Building Unit
- Sage Unit
- Senior Living Unit
- Infirmaries and COAs

**DIRECTIVE:**

I.A. OCO suggests adding to this list the requirement that employees must have completed sufficient and appropriate training for the type of specialized unit to which they will be assigned. Enhanced trainings for specialized unit employees are critically important as discussed in OCO’s recent systemic review of mental health access and services within DOC.<sup>1</sup>

**GENERAL:**

OCO urges the policy author and Policy Office to consult with the co-chairs of the Residential Treatment Unit (RTU) Workgroup, Dr. Karie Rainer and Supt. Jack Warner, as well as external stakeholders such as Disability Rights Washington, prior to adopting this revision.

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<sup>1</sup> See the full report at

[https://oco.wa.gov/sites/default/files/MH%20Systemic%20Review%20Final%20with%20DOC%20Response\\_0.pdf](https://oco.wa.gov/sites/default/files/MH%20Systemic%20Review%20Final%20with%20DOC%20Response_0.pdf)