

Guidelines for Mental Health Workers Assisting Health Services Workers to Screen Volunteers Being Considered for National Assignment:

Diane Bridgeman, Ph.D. (831) 420-1109 9/05

- 1.) All potential ARC volunteers are initially screened by ARC Health Services Workers/Nurses.
- 2.) They use Nationally developed ARC guidelines in their screening process which includes a “Physical Capacity Grid”.
- 3.) If there is something questionable in their screening process that relates to a psychological issue they will ask Diane Bridgeman chair of the mental health team, or she will ask one of the on-call team members to review the file. This happens fairly infrequently.
- 4.) The mental health worker who reviews the file should check with the nurse who first screened the application to determine the specific psychological or related concerns.
- 5.) Then the mental health person calls the applicant to determine if the concern or limitation expressed by Health Services would contraindicate the volunteer going out on National assignment. It is helpful to remember that going out on National assignment is “a privilege, not a right”, with fairness and diplomacy guiding this privilege.
 - (a) Of course, it may well depend if the assignment is a hardship, whether they have gone out before and handled it well, or whether there are other extenuating circumstances.
 - (b) When we call it can be helpful to say that we are volunteers for ARC and are asked to do brief follow-up check-ins with potential volunteers, and that we want to just go over a few areas with the person. We don’t necessarily have to identify ourselves as mental health volunteers.
 - (c) Please see the “Mental Health Screening Assessment” developed by D. Bridgeman, Ph.D., & ed. by J. Kaupp, Ph.D. as a framework for areas to explore in this screening process. Also, Bridgeman’s “Considerations on Hardship Assignments”, “Coping on An Assisgnment Guidelines”, and “Resilience/Coping Strategies/Self Care” will provide some direction for you and support for the potential volunteer.

MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING NOTES FORM: (TO GIVE TO HEALTH SERVICES FOR THEIR USE ONLY)

DATE:

MH WORKER NAME & TEL #:

POTENTIAL VOL. YOU SCREENED:

BRIEF COMMENTS:

Developed by -Diane Bridgeman, Ph.D.
(831) 420-1109