

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH THERAPIST I

DEFINITION

Under the supervision of a licensed clinical supervisor, to provide integrated mental health counseling and treatment to a wide variety of individuals with qualifying mental conditions; to serve a population of individuals that may be involved with the criminal justice system, long-term mental illness, youth and children and clients with co-occurring diagnoses; and to do related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is an intern position in the Behavioral Health Therapist series, for therapists who have a Master's Degree in Social Work, Counseling, Psychology, or a related and are registered with the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. Candidate must be working on accumulating supervised hours toward becoming a Licensed Marriage Family Therapist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker or a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor. Incumbents are assigned a full range of therapeutic support duties for assigned clients.

REPORTS TO

Behavioral Health Unit Supervisor.

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

- Performs intake assessments and evaluations of individuals with primary mental health problems and individuals with co-occurring disorders.
- Formulates treatment plans in collaboration with individuals served.
- Coordinates care with other providers including, case managers, primary care providers, probation and the courts.

- Completes reports that inform the Court and Probation of progress and treatment challenges.
- Maintains an awareness of mental health counseling methodologies.
- Provides crisis intervention and assessment for individuals with primary mental health diagnosis, primary alcohol and substance abuse diagnosis and individuals with co-occurring disorders.
- Prepares case histories and maintains patient records.
- Documents all services in a manner proscribed by the department in a timely manner, within 72 hours of the provision of service 91% of the time.
- Makes referrals to appropriate professionals or outside agencies.
- Participates in the assessment of client needs and consults with others in developing therapeutic goals and objectives.
- Participates in mental health and/or alcohol and drug education program, conferences and community programs.
- Attends training conferences relevant to current mental health and alcohol and drug and co-occurring disorders.
- Performs community outreach and education assignments.
- Participates in the emergency “on-call” system on a rotating basis.
- Operates a personal computer and effectively utilizes an electronic health records system.
- Conducts recovery activities, case management, and completes related work as required.
- Understands State and Federal laws regarding privacy, confidentiality and security.

TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sit for extended periods; frequently stand and walk; normal manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination; lift and move object weighing up to 25 pounds; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of office equipment including computers, telephones, calculators, copiers, and FAX.

TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is usually performed in an office or community environment; continuous contact with staff and the public. Crisis intervention services may require working in a hospital, County jail or in the field. This position requires routine driving throughout the county and occasional driving outside the county to various sites.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles, procedures, techniques, and trends for the counseling, therapy and guidance of individuals, groups, and families in behavioral health programs.
- Therapeutic treatment methods and procedures in the mental health and alcohol and drug field.
- State, Federal, and local laws, regulations, and requirements for the provision of mental health and alcohol and drug services and programs.
- Current practices and techniques in psychotherapeutic and recovery model treatments.
- The scope and activities of public and private agencies in the behavioral health field.
- Psychotropic medications, medications and substances associated with addiction and abuse.
- Quality Assurance practices and standards.
- Crisis Counseling Techniques.
- Psycho-social aspects of mental illnesses and dependency.

Ability to:

- Perform a variety of mental health/behavioral health therapeutic services, client assessments, and client counseling.
- Analyze case information and reach sound diagnostic and treatment decisions.
- Perform skilled counseling.
- Maintain composure and awareness during crisis interventions.
- Develop and maintain confidence and cooperation of individuals with mental health and substance abuse/dependency and their families.
- Prepare clear, relevant and accurate reports.
- Interpret and apply complex mental health and alcohol and drug program rules, regulations and policies.
- Consistently document all assessments, treatment plans and service interventions in a manner that complies with all audit and regulatory requirements.
- Effectively represent the Mental Health Department in contacts with clients and the public.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with staff, other agencies, and the public.

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Training:

A Master's degree in psychology, social work, marriage and family counseling, or a related field from an accredited college or university which provides the educational basis for licensing to provide psychotherapy in the State of California.

Licensing or Certifications:

Possession of, or ability to obtain, an appropriate valid California driver's license. Valid California Driver's License must be maintained throughout employment.

Prior to hiring, must be registered with the California Board of Behavioral Sciences, and possess an intern number for either an Associate Clinical Social Worker (ACSW), a Marriage Family Therapist Intern (MFTI), a Professional Clinical Counselor Intern (PPCI), or a related licensing that provides the ability to provide psychotherapy in the State of California. Must obtain licensure as an MFT, LCSW or LPCC, or related license providing the ability to provide psychotherapy in the State of California within five (5) years of the effective date of employment. Maintaining an active intern number all years and obtaining licensure in five (5) years is a requirement of this position, and employees who fail to do so are subject to demotion or termination.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

All County of Plumas employees are designated Disaster Service Workers through state law (California Government Code Section 3100-3109). Employment with Plumas County requires the affirmation of a loyalty oath to this effect. Employees are required to complete all Disaster Service Work related training as assigned, and to return to work as ordered in the event of an emergency.