

MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST 1

DEFINITION

In collaboration with other mental health professionals, to provide professional level mental health assessment and treatment services to clients who have mental illnesses or mental disorders; and to perform related duties as assigned.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

This is the entry-level classification in the Mental Health Specialist series. Incumbents initially perform the more routine duties assigned to positions in this series and work under close supervision. However, as experience is gained, incumbents are expected to perform the full range of duties as assigned with increasing independence. This class is distinguished from the Mental Health Specialist 2 in that the latter is assigned work or caseloads of greater difficulty and complexity.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives direction from assigned supervisory or management personnel, and may receive technical and functional supervision from designated staff.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES - Duties may include, but are not limited to the following:

Collaborates in the provision of mental health services to clients who may have mental illness or mental disorders, to include substance use disorders or psychosexual disorders.

Screens and evaluates referred clients to determine whether clients have a mental illness or disorder, and meet criteria for eligibility for program services.

Performs assessments of referred clients to assess mental health needs; completes client interviews, obtains social, emotional, criminal and substance abuse histories, identifies client needs, and assesses treatment options; under supervision, conducts mental status evaluations using approved diagnostic manual.

LANE COUNTY
Mental Health Specialist 1 (continued)

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES: (con't)

Assists in the preparation of written reports with diagnostic impressions for review by psychiatrist / physician.

Works with clients to establish goals and objectives and determines treatment methods.

Provides individual and group counseling; guides clients in obtaining insight into their emotional problems and in changing behavior patterns; works with short- and long-term cases.

Refers clients to outside agencies for additional social, economic, and medical services as needed; coordinates client service provision.

Observes clients using prescribed medications for possible side effects and for effectiveness of medications, and may refer clients to physicians/psychiatrists.

Assists in the preparation of reports to courts regarding sentencing alternatives, treatment options and client progress.

Monitors client payment records and billing information, and sets payment schedules with clients.

Maintains detailed, up to date and accurate records of all client evaluations, therapy sessions, consultations, treatment plans, progress notes and other information; prepares summaries and evaluation reports.

Interviews relatives of patients applying for services to obtain psychological histories, present behavior and personal and social factors.

May perform other related duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Theories, principles, practice and techniques of mental health assessment and counseling.

Community mental health programs and services and their procedures and practices.

Techniques, tests, and procedures employed in evaluating, modifying and modifying behavior.

LANE COUNTY
Mental Health Specialist 1 (continued)

Knowledge of: (con't)

Basic laws, rules and regulations governing the assessment and treatment of mental health clients.

Techniques of identifying patterns of alcohol, drug issues, and treatment methods.

Principles and techniques of effective group and individual therapy.

Ability to:

Assess mental, addictive, and psychosexual disorders within the scope of mental health services provided by Lane County.

Counsel and negotiate with clients to provide an effective treatment plan as a member of a professional mental health team.

Coordinate efforts with other specialists, agencies and organizations.

Provide treatment within the scope of a clearly defined law, regulation or program definition.

Utilize community resources in a mental health or substance abuse or other related rehabilitation program.

Present and discuss topics in front of a group of clients, staff or the public.

Interview clients and their families to determine psychological history, assess eligibility and determine treatments, needs and options.

Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.

Experience and Training

Training:

Master's degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in a mental health field, psychology, counseling, social work or a related field.

LANE COUNTY
Mental Health Specialist 1 (continued)

Experience:

One year of some experience working directly with mentally or emotionally disturbed clients in the provision of behavioral health services is highly desirable.

An equivalent combination of experience and training that will demonstrate the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying.

Special Requirements:

Some positions may require QMHP designation

Established per Board Order 06-1-11-4.

Deminimus changes adding equivalency language, clarifying supervision and QMHP designation approved via email 3/17/06 by Acting County Administrator.