



SENIOR MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

CLASS SUMMARY: To provide technical consultant and expert services for a mental health program area; and to perform related duties as assigned.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS: This is the advanced journey level class in the Mental Health Specialist series. Positions at this level are distinguished from other classes within the series by the level of responsibility assumed and the complexity of duties assigned. Employees perform the most difficult and responsible types of duties assigned to classes within this series including assessment of the more immediate or crisis cases and commitments. Employees at this level are required to be fully trained in all procedures related to assigned area of responsibility.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: Receives direction from assigned supervisory or management personnel.

TYPICAL CLASS ESSENTIAL DUTIES: (These duties are a representative sample; position assignments may vary.)

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| 1. | Reviews treatment plans and client records for quality assurance and to meet administrative rules and requirements. |
| 2. | Consults with in-house staff and other agency staff regarding delivery of services and treatment plans for clients. |
| 3. | Provides direct client care including evaluation, referral, therapy and development of treatment plans. |
| 4. | Provides clinical backup to client caseloads for other treatment staff. |
| 5. | Provides emergency mental status evaluations and consultations. |
| 6. | May serve as liaison to state mental health offices on select projects. |
| 7. | Conducts pre-commitment screenings and investigations. |
| 8. | Appears in court to provide expert witness testimony. |
| 9. | Oversees or provides investigation into certification of foster homes. |
| 10. | Conducts educational presentations to the community regarding the needs and care of the mentally ill. |
| 11. | Coordinates efforts between units, divisions, departments and agencies. |

Knowledge of (position requirements at entry):

- Principles, practices and techniques of mental health treatment including counseling, social, emotional and behavioral aspects of disease.
- Dynamics of personal and social adjustment.
- Theories of normal and abnormal behavior and appropriate treatment modalities.
- Psychopharmacology and diagnostic nomenclature.
- Community agencies and their programs involving mental health including the state hospital system.
- Laws, rules and regulations governing the provision of mental health services.
- Theories, practices and techniques of psychological testing.

Skills in (position requirements at entry):

- Apply mental health principles and concepts.
- Secure accurate and personal data.
- Establish and maintain effective and professional therapeutic and interpersonal relationships.
- Work independently on counseling and mental health service activities.
- Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.
- Test, evaluate and assess the mental status of individuals using a variety of examination tests and evaluation techniques.
- Handle and deal with complex and difficult cases.
- Present information as an expert witness in a legal setting.
- Respond to crisis situations.
- Make commitment determinations
- Utilize community resources in a mental health or substance abuse rehabilitation program.

Training and Experience (positions in this class typically require):

Master's Degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in a mental health field, psychology, sociology, counseling or a related field. Three years of responsible professional mental health or professional mental health crisis experience. An equivalent combination of experience and training that will demonstrate the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying.

Licensing Requirements (positions in this class may require):

Some positions may require special certification.

NOTE: These positions are represented by AFSCME Local 2831.

Classification History:

FLSA Status: Exempt