

Code: 5286

Title: SOCIAL WORKER/THERAPIST

SUMMARY: Provides professional social work to children, adults and/or families which may include crisis intervention to clients and accompanying family members or other affected parties and makes independent decisions regarding client care treatment programs.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: (Work assignments may vary depending on the department's needs and will be communicated to the applicant or incumbent by the supervisor.)

Provides in-depth psychotherapy, group therapy, direct social services, counseling and crisis intervention to individuals and families;

Assesses client's mental status and functioning level;

Evaluates client's behavioral health placement needs based on individualized assessment including diagnosis, symptoms, nuances and milieu of the placement while providing the least restrictive environment possible;

Provides clinical consultation to case managers for psychiatric hospitalization, behavioral health issues and coordination on community and nursing home placements for behavioral clients;

Intervenes during traumatic episodes and provides crisis intervention;

Provides on-going comprehensive assessment of client's emotional, behavioral and social needs;

Develops client therapeutic treatment plans addressing the presenting diagnosis and symptoms utilizing various assessment tools according to the classification of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder (DSM-IV-TR) and the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9) codes;

Provides therapy and supportive counseling to clients and families dealing with the impact of bereavement and loss, chronic illness, physical disability and substance abuse, to resolve immediate crisis situations;

Assesses the efficacy of psychiatric services, methadone maintenance, behavioral health and substance abuse placements;

Participates in developing training modules to address psychosocial needs of clients, family members or sponsors in programs such as Adult Foster Care, assisted living centers and skilled nursing facilities;

Informs concerned parties of impact that psychosocial and cultural differences have on illness;

Evaluates client's home environment information and determines if needs are being met;

Maintains liaison with and refers clients to community resource agencies, flows client progress on a continuing basis and verifies delivery of services;

Serves as advocate on behalf of client to coordinate services and information with community agencies, family members and the County social system;

Initiates and maintains client records for contact, intervention, therapeutic and related activities and prepares/submits required reports;

Maintains security and confidentiality of all information encountered or created in performance of duties;

May be required to testify in court, competency hearings or like settings relative to client's mental health status, level of functioning, etc.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:

Knowledge of:

- methods, principles and advanced clinical practices used in social work;
- community resources and social services agencies for follow-on treatment for clients, their families and other affected individuals;
- local economic environments, cultural and community attitudes and social mores;
- effects of illness/disability on client's social and emotional functioning;
- principles and practices of individual, family and group therapy;
- principles, practices and techniques of crisis intervention;

- Federal, State and local laws, rules, regulations and protocols governing the assessment, treatment or disposition of clients with impaired mental or functional capabilities;
- methods, objectives and practices of contemporary mental health treatment practices;
- community resources for follow-on treatment for clients, their families and other affected individuals.

Skill in:

- analyzing and evaluating case history information;
- providing therapy to clients and family members;
- interviewing clients, family members and other affected parties to elicit needed information;
- assessing client mental state and functioning levels utilizing various tools such as the DSM-IV-TR and the ICD-9;
- correlating client interview information with other professional healthcare staff observations to determine needed psychological and/or medical intervention required;
- intervening and establishing effective working relationships with mentally ill clients in crisis;
- documenting initial and subsequent contacts with client, family members and affected parties relative to patient background, etc.;
- establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with professional staff and community organizations;
- communicating effectively, orally and in writing.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

A Master's degree from an accredited college or university with a major in social work (MSW) or a closely related field as defined by the Appointing Authority at the time of recruitment and Arizona licensure as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Licenses and Certificates:

Some positions may require a valid Arizona Class D Driver's License at the time of appointment or prior to completion of initial/promotional probation. All positions require current Arizona licensure as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) at the time of appointment; failure to maintain such certification shall be grounds for termination.

Special Notice Items:

Department of Labor Regulation CFR 1910.1030 requires notification that some positions in this classification may have a high risk of exposure to blood-borne pathogens. In accordance with OSHA and Pima County guidelines, Tuberculin (TB) screening, Hepatitis B vaccinations, safety training and equipment will be provided. Some positions may require bi-lingual abilities in English and a second language, as determined by the Appointing Authority.

Physical/Sensory Requirements: Physical and sensory abilities will be determined by position.

This class specification is intended to indicate the basic nature of positions allocated to the class and examples of typical duties that may be assigned. It does not imply that all positions within the class perform all of the duties listed, nor does it necessarily list all possible duties that may be assigned.

Pima County

Revised 01/11/05(lg/gS)
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