

HIV SPECIALTY CLINIC THERAPIST

DEFINITION

Under direction to provide mental health assessments, brief counseling, referrals, treatment planning and support services to HIV+ individuals, and their families, and do related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This position is equivalent to a journey level class in the Mental Health Therapist series. It differs from the Mental Health Therapist I in that incumbents function under less supervision and are licensed. They classification requires travel to HIV Specialty Clinic Sites and client homes both in and out of Plumas County to provide counseling and treatment services.

REPORTS TO

Health Education Coordinator II, Public Health Program Chief, or Public Health Director

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None.

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EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

- Performs and coordinates initial psychosocial assessments and ongoing reassessment of all HIV+ clients in Plumas and Lassen counties.
- Provides brief psychological and psychiatric treatment and counseling services for HIV+ individuals with a diagnosed mental health disorder. Provides referral for long term counseling and support group services.
- Consults with the client's attending physician, primary care practitioner and/or other medical providers as needed, to coordinate plans of treatment and advocate for the client as necessary.
- Works with the client and care team to implement a service plan with review and appropriate revision based on comprehensive assessments and reassessments, case conference, and service needs identified.
- Promotes understanding of the psychosocial factors impacting persons with HIV disease.
- Fosters intra-agency and interagency working relationships to help accomplish goals.
- Travels to various location in both Plumas and Lassen Counties to provide services at HIV Specialty Clinic sites and in individual client homes.
- Ensures that the client's psychosocial needs are addressed in accordance with the service plan.
- Identifies and assists clients in accessing benefits and entitlements, resources, and information and referral services for psychosocial needs.
- Consults with other social service providers as needed to assure continuity of care and prevent duplication of services.
- Participates in Question and Answer activities and described in the QI/QM Guidelines.
- Empowers clients in decision making for service planning.
- Maintains records and collect data as required by the Department and professional standards.
- Advocates for the needs of the individual client.

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 off site in a medical clinic environment or client home; continuous contact with staff and the public.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles, procedures, techniques, and trends for the counseling, therapy and guidance of individuals, groups, and families in mental health programs.
- Therapeutic treatment methods and procedures in the mental health field.
- State, Federal, and local laws, regulations, and requirements for the provision of mental health services and programs.
- Current practices and techniques in psychotherapeutic treatment.
- The Scope and activities of public and private agencies in the mental health field.
- Psychotropic medications.
- Treatment research, development, and implementation.
- Quality Assurance practices and standards.
- Crisis Counseling Techniques.
- Psychosocial aspects of mental illnesses.
- Psychosocial factors impacting person with HIV disease.

Ability to:

- Perform a variety of mental 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 emotionally disturbed patients and their families.
- Prepare clear, relevant and accurate reports.
- Develop and present public presentations.
- Enforce Quality Assurance Standards.
- Interpret and apply complex mental health program rules, regulations and policies.
- Effectively represent the Mental Health Department in contacts with clients and the public.

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Training and Experience:

Possession of a master's degree in Social Work, Psychology, Counseling, Psychiatric Nursing or appropriate related field from an accredited institution and two (2) years of post-master experience equivalent to a Mental Health Therapist I in Plumas County.

Minimum of 10 hours per year of HIV/AIDS specific continuing education training.

Special Requirements: Possession of a license as an LCSW or MFCC issued by the California State Board of Behavioral Science Examiners or Clinical Psychologist by the Board of Medical Examiners.

Possession of an appropriate California Driver's License issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

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.