BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE COUNSELOR I/II

DEFINITION

Under supervision performs a variety of behavioral health casework activities such as assessment, referral, intervention, and treatment; coordinates programs with schools, community organizations, and local activities; conducts individual and group counseling and formulates treatment/recovery plans; and does related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the entry and first working level in the Behavioral Health Counselor series. Positions in this class differ from those in the Behavioral Health Counselor II in that positions in the latter class receive the more difficult assignments requiring greater skill and depth of job knowledge in assessing problem situations and formulating plans for service. Incumbents in this class work under closer supervision until job knowledge and experience is gained.

REPORTS TO

Behavioral Health Director and Behavioral Health Care Manager: Substance Abuse.

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Performs case assessments, referral, intervention and treatment of clients; participates in the development of countywide behavioral health programs; tasks, observes, and listens to clients in individual and group counseling to obtain information for assessing clients' needs; helps formulate treatment/recovery plans and evaluate client progress; prepares and maintains case records; refers clients to other resources; provides liaison with physicians, schools, correctional/probation agencies and others; prepares written progress reports; may perform specialized tasks including crisis assessment and intervention during normal business hours or after hours; may prepare and deliver presentations to schools, community groups and agencies concerning alcohol and drug problems; may assist with the development and implementation of media campaigns; may work with a variety of adult and youth volunteers. and performs other duties as required.
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 environment; continuous contact with staff and the public.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

• Alcohol and drug treatment and prevention methods and issues.
• Principles, procedures, techniques and trends in behavioral health counseling.
• Community organizations and resources.
• Interviewing, counseling, and evaluation techniques.
• Principles of individual and group behavior.
• Crisis intervention counseling

Ability to:

• Interpret, apply, and explain Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations governing behavioral health programs and services.
• Make public speaking presentation before groups and organizations.
• Analyze situations and behavior patterns, adopting appropriate courses of action.
• Effectively counsel clients, groups and families.
• Communicate effectively in writing.
• Maintain the confidentiality of case information.
• Maintain composure in emergency and stressful situations.
• Deal tactfully and courteously with the public and other County staff.
• Effectively represent County Behavioral Health Program and Services with the public, and community organizations.
• Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships.
• Perform alcohol and drug testing procedures.
MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Training and Experience: Program staff who provide counseling services shall be certified, or registered to obtain certification appropriate to the position held, within six (6) months of date of hire.

A typical way to obtain the required knowledge and abilities would be:

Counselor I:
1 - Certification: Required, or BHD waiver with the certification being obtained within five (5) years of employment.
2 - Work Experience: None
3 - Education & Training: Completion of the certification program;

Counselor II:
1 - Certification: Required.
2 - Work Experience: 1 (one) year of experience in a substance abuse treatment program equivalent to the duties and responsibilities of an Amador County BHC Counselor I.
3 - Education: A.A. degree or above preferred.

Note: Loss CAADAC or State equivalent registration shall result in termination or reassignment, if such a vacancy exists and the incumbent meets the minimum requirements for the vacant position.

Completion of major course work in psychology, social work, counseling or closely related field may substitute for one year of required experience.

It is the employee’s responsibility to maintain their certification for the continuing education units (CEU’s), including renewal of the certification.

Special Requirement: Possession of California Driver’s license as issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles.