BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REHABILITATION SPECIALIST

DEFINITION

Under supervision, works with adults and children, referred by the primary treatment professional (clinician, RN, or MD) to provide supportive services in the home, clinic, and community in support of clients’ maximal functioning; and performs other duties as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Knowledge of family systems, mental illnesses, substance use disorders, and previous experience with seriously emotionally disturbed children or adults with mental illness is required. This position requires an ability to communicate clearly, to listen well to others, and to work well with many different personalities.

REPORTS TO

Behavioral Health Care (BHC) Director and/or Behavioral Health Supervisor

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Performs intake assessments and evaluation of problems; develops and implements written service plans with goals and objectives for clients with clinical and/or substance abuse issues; provides crisis intervention; performs triage of persons seeking behavioral health care services; prepares case histories and maintains confidential patient records; makes referrals to appropriate professionals or outside agencies; participates in the assessment of client needs and consults with others in developing therapeutic goals and objectives; integrates client counseling services with other mental health services, treatment, and provider agencies; participates in behavioral health education programs, conferences and community programs and attends training conferences relevant to current behavioral health problems; performs case management duties which may include locating and arranging appropriate placements in board and care homes, group
homes, or other treatment facilities, and visiting clients in these facilities to assure that appropriate level of care is provided; helps clients manage money, paying bills, and banking; transports clients to various appointments and helps with associated paperwork; provides referrals and linkage to adjunctive community services and resources; helps clients secure housing and food; consults with clinical staff regarding shared clients; works with client/family advocates; and facilitates basic skills groups for adults and children; 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 performed in an office as well as in the field; continuous contact with staff and the public.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS**

Knowledge of:

- Principles, procedures, techniques, and trends for the counseling, and guidance of persons in mental health and substance use disorder programs.
- Therapeutic treatment methods and procedures in the mental health field.
- State, Federal, and local laws, regulations, and requirements for the provision of substance use disorder and mental health programs.
- Community organizations.
- The scope and activities of public and private agencies in the behavioral health field.
- Crisis counseling principles, methods and techniques.

Ability to:

- Communicate clearly and listen well to others
- Perform counseling and conduct individual and group rehabilitation sessions.
• Develop and maintain confidence and cooperation of emotionally disturbed patients and their families.
• Interpret and apply complex behavioral health program rules, regulations and policies.
• Prepare clear, relevant and accurate reports.
• Establish and maintain effective working relationships with staff, other agencies, and the public.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Training and Experience: Any combination of training and experience, which would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities, is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required knowledge and abilities would be:

Possession of a bachelor’s degree in Social Work, Psychology, Counseling, Psychiatric Nursing or appropriate related field, received from an accredited institution

and

Previous experience working with seriously emotionally disturbed children or adults with mental illness and substance use disorders. Four (4) years of experience in a mental health setting as a specialist in the fields of physical restoration, social adjustment, or vocational adjustment. Up to two years of graduate professional education may be substituted for the experience requirement on a year-for-year basis; up to two years of post associate arts clinical experience may be substituted for the required education experience in addition to the requirement of four years’ experience in a mental health setting

Special Requirements: Possession of an appropriate California Driver’s License issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles.