

DEPARTMENT: MENTAL HEALTH
CLASSIFICATION: COMPETITIVE
APPROVED: 3/19/98

DRUG ABUSE AIDE

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Employees in this class perform a wide variety of duties in a drug abuse prevention and/or treatment program. These duties could include identifying drug abusers and addicts, assisting persons in the program in obtaining psychiatric, medical, financial, or legal assistance paraprofessional guidance and counseling in individual or group settings. Performs a wide variety of paraprofessional tasks in a community drug abuse prevention and treatment program. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

1. Under supervision provides assessment and referral to appropriate level of care;
2. Provides drug treatment services to clients individually or in a group setting;
3. Advises clients regarding psychiatric/medical support, residential or legal aid available from the Network of Service Providers;
4. May perform education programs and seminars for school and the community on drug information advising participants of resources available, etc;
5. Identifies addicts and drug abusers and informs them of the counseling, and medical services available from the Drug Abuse Treatment Program;
6. Assists clients in obtaining employment, housing, clothing and food;

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of the problems of those addicted to or dependent on drugs; good knowledge of the symptoms and physical signs of drug use; working knowledge of the public and private agencies available to provide assistance to the addicted; ability to relate to and be accepted by drug users; ability to prepare simple reports; empathetic attitude toward drug dependent persons; sincerity; ability to engage and develop therapeutic relationship with drug users; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from high school or possession of a New York State Equivalency Diploma;

AND: 1. Associates degree from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a specialization in Human Services or related field.

OR: 2. Two years experience providing treatment in an acceptable drug treatment program.