

DEPARTMENT: MENTAL HEALTH
CLASSIFICATION: COMPETITIVE
APPROVED: SEPTEMBER 4, 2009

SENIOR MENTAL HYGIENE PRACTITIONER

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The Senior Mental Hygiene Practitioner (SMHP) provides professional mental hygiene services to children, adults or their family members. Services may be provided either at the work location or in the community (homes, courts, provider agencies, businesses, etc.). The incumbent provides clinical supervision and oversees the activities of staff responsible for consumer and family access, integration and provision of treatment, and other program needs. The SMHP assists with developing and implementing policies, procedures and standards relating to youth, adult or family mental hygiene services. When assigned, the SMHP coordinates activities and work with other department programs, other county departments, and with private agency service providers. The incumbent works under the general supervision of the Director of Community Mental Health Services, the Deputy Director and/or a Supervising Social Worker. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

1. Oversees the child, adult and family case work in the assigned work area to promote successful outcomes and the well-being of these consumers;
2. Maintains necessary records and prepares reports;
3. Maintains cooperative relationships with family and criminal courts, and other welfare agencies in the community;
4. May lead meetings and workgroups with other department programs, other county departments, private agency service providers, and recipients of service;
5. Meets with families and other collaterals to integrate and coordinate for services to the individual and may provide clinical family intervention;
6. Assists with the formulation of mental hygiene case work or group work policies and procedures;
7. Interprets Federal, State and local policies and programs to staff and agency representatives under their supervision;
8. Provides formal and informal clinical supervision to staff in difficult cases and conducts necessary consultation with other agency providers;
9. Recommends and drafts mental hygiene policy and procedure in accordance with regulatory, audit readiness, and corporate compliance standards of documentation and service provision;
10. Provides performance evaluations of assigned staff;
11. Participates in the crisis services and/or after hours on-call rotation and response to meet the needs of consumers and the department;
12. Assists the department's planning component in the needs identification and development of youth, adult, or family services in the areas of Mental Health, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, and Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities;
13. Provides professional mental hygiene services appropriate to his/her license to clients as needed.

CONTINUED

SENIOR MENTAL HYGIENE PRACTITIONER CONTINUED

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of clinical services and practices in the mental hygiene service system including individual, group and family work; good knowledge of Federal, State and local Mental Hygiene law and regulation; working knowledge of clinical documentation relating to standards of regulation, corporate compliance and audit readiness; ability to oversee the work of others; ability to apply knowledge and skill in the performance of duties; ability to prepare clear and accurate records and reports; ability to establish and maintain successful work and therapeutic relationships with people; ability to interpret the work of the agency; initiative and resourcefulness; good powers of observation and analysis; imagination; sensitivity to the reaction of others; emotional maturity; sound professional judgment; tact and courtesy; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

SUGGESTED PROMOTIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

One (1) year of permanent competitive status as a Mental Hygiene Practitioner in the Niagara County Department of Mental Health immediately preceding the date of examination.

OPEN COMPETITIVE:

1. Possession of one of the following: current New York State License as a Master of Social Work, Clinical Social Worker, Mental Health Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist, Creative Arts Therapist, or Psychoanalyst **and** three (3) years of full-time paid supervised experience in a mental hygiene setting; **OR**
2. Possession of a current New York State Registered Professional Nurse license **and** three (3) years of full-time paid supervised nursing experience in a mental hygiene setting.