

FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST II

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is advanced professional forensic mental health work which involves responsibility for supervising and performing mental health services and treatment activities at a penal facility in Erie County, and for providing case consultation regarding client assessment and treatment planning to the Courts and mental health agencies. The work allows considerable leeway for independent judgment and action. Work is performed under the general supervision of an administrative employee of higher rank, and exercises supervision over a small staff of Forensic Mental Health Specialists I, and clerical staff. The work differs from Forensic Mental Health Specialists I in the greater complexity of the cases personally handled, and in the type of supervision exercised. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Supervises mental health services and treatment activities to persons with mental health conditions at a penal facility, including supervision of staff and review and approval of assessment and treatment determinations;
Assess the need for psychiatric examination and treatment determinations;
Renders direct treatment, including crisis intervention, consultations, linkages to community-based services and reports to referring entities;
Provides consultation to legal-penal staff, attorneys, district attorneys, the courts, and mental hygiene facilities on assessments, as in preliminary Court-ordered examinations and treatment planning;
Assist in data collection for and preparation of program evaluation reports;
Conducts evaluations on individuals involved in Criminal Court and provides the Court with findings and recommendations, including preliminary court ordered examination for competency.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of principles and practices of mental health treatment, co-occurring substance abuse disorder treatment, and their application to the legal-penal system; thorough knowledge of current trends in mental health treatment techniques and their application to persons with mental health conditions involved with the legal-penal system; thorough knowledge of legal-penal and mental health systems and related services for individuals with mental illness; thorough knowledge of the clinical profile and service needs of high risk mental health consumers and related socio-personal characteristics; good knowledge of mental health treatment techniques appropriate to children, adolescents, adults and family systems; good knowledge of evidence-based practices relevant to the high-risk mental health consumer, including care coordination models employed in Erie County; good knowledge of family systems; good knowledge of mental health and other human service providers serving individuals with serious mental illness; working knowledge of Mental Hygiene Law; ability to work with health and human service providers to assure linkages to appropriate care; ability to supervise professional and para-professional staff; ability to teach and train professionals and para-professionals; ability to communicate effectively, with diverse individuals and groups; maturity; stability; good judgment; physically capable of performing the essential functions of the position with or without reasonable accommodation.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Master's Degree in Social Work, Psychology, Psychiatric Nursing, Rehabilitation Counseling, Education or closely related field and three (3) years of experience providing services to persons with mental health conditions.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:

New York State Department of Education licensure as a Social Worker or Mental Health Counselor at time of appointment.

NOTE: Verifiable part-time and/or volunteer experience will be pro-rated toward meeting full-time experience requirements.