



ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

## JOB POSTING

Type: Open



**Title:** Forensic Mental Health Specialist I- Adult Mental Health Trainee

**Date Posted**

July 1, 2026

**Last Day to Respond to Posting**

July 15, 2026

**Bargaining Unit**

CSEA

**Job Group**

JG 10

**Employment Type**

Full-Time

**Starting Salary for External Candidates**

\$60,794.00

**Shift**

Sunday- Thursday or Tuesday- Saturday;  
Three days 8a-4p and two days 10a-6p

**Appointment Type**

Temporary

**Division/Work Unit**

Adult Mental Health

**Location**

Erie County Correctional Facility or Erie  
County Holding Center

**Number of Vacancies**

1

### **Temporary Appointment Notice**

This position is being filled on a temporary basis in accordance with the New York State Civil Service Law and applicable rules and regulations. A temporary appointment does not confer permanent status. Individuals serving in a temporary appointment are not guaranteed consideration for permanent appointment. If a permanent vacancy exists, filling of the position on a permanent basis will be subject to applicable civil service examination, eligibility, and appointment requirements.

### **Distinguishing Features of the Class**

This is entrance level professional forensic mental health work which involves responsibility for providing direct mental health services to persons under custody in the Holding Center or Correctional Facility. These include inmates awaiting trial and sentencing, those serving sentences, probation and parole violators. The work is carried out in accordance with established procedures, with leeway permitted for the exercise of independent judgment. The work involves helping to assess the need for psychiatric examination and determination, rendering direct treatment, which at times includes crisis intervention, and providing consultation and reports to referring agencies. The

work is performed under the direct rank, and may exercise supervision over a small number of para-professional or clerical employees. The class differs from Mental Health Specialist II in that cases assigned are generally less complex, and in that supervision exercised by this class is limited to sub-professional staff. Does related work as required.

### **Typical Work Activities**

- Provides direct and continuing mental health treatment to persons with mental health conditions held in custody;
- Assesses 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;
- Conducts preliminary Court-ordered examinations to determine need for Formal Competency, sanity determinations by Psychiatrists, and prepares written reports on such preliminary examinations for review by supervisor;
- Consults with attorneys, families, penal officers and the Courts to help determine appropriate alternatives for sentencing, treatment or other medical/legal dispositions;

### **Minimum Qualifications**

Possession of a Master's Degree\*\*\* in Social Work, Mental Health Counseling, Rehabilitation Counseling, Education, or closely related field at the time of appointment. After completion of the one (1) year training term and completion of special requirements, a trainee candidate shall be entitled to advance to permanent status as a Forensic Mental Health Specialist I – Adult (Job Group 11) without further examination.

### **Special Requirements**

Possession of a New York State Department of Education license to practice as a Social Worker, Mental Health Counselor or Certified Rehabilitation Counselor at time of permanent appointment and maintenance throughout duration of appointment.

### **Criminal Background Check**

In accordance with New York State law, a criminal background check may be conducted after a conditional offer of employment has been made. A prior conviction will not automatically disqualify a candidate from employment, unless required by law or directly related to the duties of the position. Certain positions may be subject to additional background screening based on statutory or regulatory requirements.

### **Remote Work Eligibility**

This position is not eligible for remote work under any circumstances. The duties of this role require full-time, on-site presence.

### **Equal Opportunity Employer Statement**

Erie County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or any other legally protected status.

**Visa Sponsorship**

Erie County does not sponsor employment-based visa status for any position. All applicants must be legally authorized to work in the United States at the time of application and throughout the duration of employment, without the need for current or future visa sponsorship.

If interested and meet the above qualifications, please follow the link below or scan the QR code at the top right corner of the job posting.

<https://www3.erie.gov/employment/job-postings>