

SNOHOMISH COUNTY JOB DESCRIPTION

MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL – CORRECTIONS

Spec No. 4096

BASIC FUNCTION

To assess, evaluate and coordinate mental health care for incarcerated individuals.

STATEMENT OF ESSENTIAL JOB DUTIES

1. Assesses psychiatric emergencies and provides crisis intervention to emotionally distressed and mentally ill inmates
2. Conducts evaluations of inmates for the purpose of suicide intervention and prevention; Involuntary Treatment Act referrals to CDMHPs; medication consults with psychiatric provider; inmate classification and housing; safe-to-release discharge planning.
3. Coordinates inmate care with Corrections staff to ensure inmates' special needs are addressed.
4. Provides information to courts and attorneys regarding recommendations for competency and/or civil commitment procedures.
5. Develops Individualized Treatment Plans for psychiatric inmates who require intensive behavior management.
6. Promotes linkages with community mental health agencies, other support services and families for inmate care and coordination for continuum of care; including discharge planning when indicated.
7. Maintains routine statistical data/information related to duties.
8. Maintains the safety and security of staff and inmates when making clinical decisions regarding inmates.
9. Participates in on-call responsibilities for off-hours MHP coverage.
10. Attends departmental meetings and trainings as necessary.
11. Assists with the on-site supervision of mental health interns.
12. Provides mental health training for jail staff as needed.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

A Master's degree in social work, clinical psychology, psychiatric nursing, or related field; PLUS, two (2) years experience in the direct treatment of mentally ill clients; OR, any equivalent combination of training and/or experience that provides the required knowledge and abilities. Must pass job related tests.

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SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

A valid Washington State Driver's License is required for employment.

Licensure as a Social Worker, Marriage/Family Therapist or Mental Health Counselor required.

Applicants must pass a criminal background check, polygraph and psychological testing examination.

Candidates must be at least 21 years old at the time of application.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- mental health assessments;
- crisis intervention and counseling techniques;
- abnormal behavior, symptomatology, and treatment modalities of mental disorders;
- legal parameters and procedures concerning civil commitment and community treatment practices;
- substance abuse and chemical dependency profiles.

Ability to:

- respond effectively to crisis situations;
- relate to severely disturbed and/or difficult persons in order to determine appropriate mental health services, monitoring and housing;
- gather and analyze pertinent data;
- establish and maintain effective working relationships with staff of interdisciplinary teams and community providers;
- assess and diagnose mental disorders and determine need for psychiatric services; maintain detailed records and prepare clear, concise written documentation.

SUPERVISION

Employees report to the Health Services Administrator or other administrative superior as assigned. Employees work independently on specific assignments, which are completed in accordance with established guidelines, practices and regulations. Work is reviewed through meetings, status reports and results obtained.

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WORKING CONDITIONS

The majority of work occurs primarily in the Snohomish County Jail. Inmate interviews are conducted throughout the jail housing units and in the booking/intake area. Employee may be required to interview inmates in alternate settings. The employee may be required to work evenings, weekends and holidays. There may be instances when the on-call MHP is required to respond to the jail to assess an inmate during off-duty hours when on pager rotation.

Class Established: October 2004

EEO Category: 2

Pay Grade: 240