

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST - SENIOR

DEFINITION

Under direct clinical supervision of a licensed clinical professional, provides case management services to individuals suffering from a mental illness, a comorbid substance use disorder, or children with complex needs and a varied range of problems, with primary responsibilities as an outpatient substance abuse use counselor in various program settings; and performs related duties as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the journey-level of the Behavioral Health Specialist series. It is distinguished from the Behavioral Health Specialist II classification in that incumbents are certified as an alcohol and other drug counselor with one of the State-approved certifying bodies in addition to having advanced work experience in a County Health and Human Services Department and/or education beyond that required of Behavioral Health Specialist II. Incumbents provide direct services to adults, children, individuals, families and groups, including working with the collaborative drug court team and participants. Services include assessments, crisis intervention, counseling, case management, referrals, treatment plan adherence, evaluation, plan development, placement services, assistance in daily living, access to health services, client health and wellness advocacy, and documentation in electronic health records.

REPORTS TO

Supervising Behavioral Health Specialist; Mental Health Clinical Specialist; Behavioral Health Clinical Specialist; Division Director – Behavioral Health.

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST- SENIOR – 2

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

- Participates in treatment team, staff, and professional meetings to discuss client treatment and progress.
- May provide drug and alcohol counseling and crisis intervention services to individuals, families, and groups; manages the more difficult cases as assigned, including dual and multi-diagnosed disorders (i.e. mental illness, HIV, or other acute/chronic medical conditions).
- Conducts group sessions dealing with drug/alcohol education and communication, parenting, life skills, relapse prevention, coping and relaxation skills.
- Provides information and referrals for appropriate services provided through other Health and Human Service Agency departments and other community agencies as needed.
- Provides pre-sentence evaluations and treatment recommendations for criminal justice agencies.
- Interviews clients, families and significant others to evaluate clients' strengths, needs, and resources.
- Conducts assessments to determine the level of social impairment due to physical and mental health problems, self-care potential, support network availability, adequacy of living arrangements, financial status, employment status, and potential training needs.
- Negotiates treatment objectives with the client or his/her legally authorized representative.
- Develops a written, comprehensive, individual service plan (ISP), which specifies the treatment, service activities, and assistance needed to accomplish negotiated objectives.
- Interviews the clients and others at the onset of a crisis to provide support and assistance in problem resolution, and to coordinate or arrange for the provision of other needed services.
- Assesses the adequacy and appropriateness of client living arrangements, and assists in securing alternative living arrangements when needed.
- Assists the client on a regular basis in developing or maintaining the skills needed to achieve the goals of the client's service plan, including the use of psychiatric, medical, and dental services, guidance in money management, and the use of educational, socialization, rehabilitation and other social services.
- Identifies, assesses and mobilizes resources to meet client's needs, including advocating and intervening for the client with social security, welfare and health departments, the justice system, etc.
- Participates in diagnostic and evaluative staff conferences for cooperative planning and treatment; consults with professional staff regarding specific clients.
- Attends appropriate staff and in-service meetings and training sessions.
- Prepares and maintains accurate reports and client case records.
- Provides personal assistance for clients in securing and maintaining housing, food, and clothing.
- Assists clients with the development of independent living skills.
- Performs services/referrals, focusing on finding appropriate alternatives to acute inpatient hospital care.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST- SENIOR – 3

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES - Continued

- Facilitates social skill development and socialization activities as determined by client needs, interest, and abilities.
- Develops prevocational and vocational service referrals to a variety of employment programs.
- Develops and evaluates therapeutic social and recreational activities for clients.
- Works with community service and other government agencies.
- Participates in planning, development, and evaluation sessions for clients.
- Travels extensively in the performance of services.
- May develop and conduct educational groups.
- Provides client transportation to and from program activities
- Performs a variety of support assignments.
- Participates in Quality Assurance (QA); Quality Improvement (QI); and Utilization Review (UR).
- Compliance with all provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).
- Compliance with all relevant laws and regulations regarding confidentiality, including CFR 42.
- Exhibits counselor competency.
- Under the supervision of a licensed clinician, participates or assists with the following activities:
 - Substance abuse groups
 - Intakes and Assessments
 - Treatment Planning
 - Chart Updates

TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sit for extended periods; frequently stand and walk; normal manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination; lift and move objects weighing up to 25 pounds; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of office equipment including computers, telephones, calculators, copiers, and FAX.

TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is usually performed in an office environment; some work is performed outside; extensive local travel; some exposure to communicable diseases; continuous contact with staff and the public.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST- SENIOR – 4

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Policies, rules, laws and regulations of the Plumas County Behavioral Health Department, Federal, State and local governments regarding alcohol/drug abuse and treatment.
- Theories and causes of drug and alcohol dependence.
- Psychological and sociological aspects, characteristics, and needs of mentally and emotionally disturbed individuals.
- Client's legal rights.
- Basic knowledge of principles, procedures, techniques, and trends of providing therapeutic and counseling services for behavioral health clients.
- Guidelines, procedures, laws, regulations, and requirements for securing basic support services for clients.
- Social aspects and characteristics of mental and emotional disturbances and substance use disorders.
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate services and how they influence agency practices.
- Scope and availability of community resources and services, including other health and social service agencies.
- Computer and time management skills.

Ability to:

- Analyze drug/alcohol abuse related emotional/behavioral disorders and carry out effective treatment plans.
- Perform group counseling.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of drug/alcohol abuse programs.
- Develop and maintain the confidence and cooperation of substance abuse and mentally and emotionally disturbed clients, their families and other significant care providers.
- Analyze situations accurately, make decisions and take effective action.
- Work with socially or economically disadvantaged individuals.
- Coordinate or perform a variety of behavioral health client facilitation and support services.
- Organize and coordinate activities with minimal supervision.
- Assist with the development and implementation of treatment plans.
- Maintain the confidentiality of client information.
- Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Prepare clear, relevant and accurate reports.
- Effectively represent the Behavioral Department in contacts with clients and the public.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with staff, other agencies, and the public.
- Maintain electronic health records.

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TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Bachelor's degree in Social Work, Social Sciences, Psychology, Human Development or related field plus two (2) years of experience with providing or coordinating direct patient or client contact work in a mental health, alcohol and drug, medical, or human services setting.

OR

Associate's degree or equivalent coursework in Social Work, Social Sciences, Psychology, Human Development or related field plus four (4) years of experience with providing or coordinating direct patient or client contact work in a mental health, alcohol and drug, medical, or human services setting;

OR

Possession of Six (6) years of experience with providing or coordinating direct patient or client contact work in a mental health, alcohol and drug, medical, or human services setting, at least three (3) of which were at the level of Behavioral Health Specialist II;

OR

Requires possession of a valid California Drug/Alcohol Counselor Certification from an organization accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCAA) to register and certify Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Counselors in California.

Must complete periodic continuing education coursework as required to maintain active certification.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Must possess a valid driver's license at time of application and a valid California Driver's License by the time of appointment. The valid California Driver's License must be maintained throughout employment.

Must possess or be willing to obtain a national provider identifier (NPI).

All County of Plumas employees are designated Disaster Service Workers through state law (California Government Code Section 3100-3109). Employment with Plumas County requires the affirmation of a loyalty oath to this effect. Employees are required to complete all Disaster Service Work related training as assigned, and to return to work as ordered in the event of an emergency.