

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS SPECIALIST

DISTINGUISHED FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This a professional behavioral health and wellness specialist position. The incumbent in this title is a team member who provides highly individualized services to clients, promotes recovery, hope, empowerment and focuses on the behavioral and mental well-being of the patient. This position involves the delivery of therapeutic services to enable patients to cope with substance abuse and mental health. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, intake; diagnostic assessment and evaluation; treatment planning; therapy; maintenance of case records; and preventive community education and coordination of client services with community agencies. Case assignments and administrative supervision are received from the Director of Community Services. Clinical supervision is received on an as-needed basis from a higher level clinical mental health professional.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: *The typical work activities listed below, while providing representative examples of the variety of work assignments in the title, do not describe any individual position. Incumbents in this title may perform some or all of the following, as well as other related activities not described.*

Provide person-centered recovery-oriented practices that provide knowledge and skills to help individuals enhance personal wellness and develop resiliency; skills training and assisting individuals to make informed decisions to improve their quality of life;

Provides assessment, triage and direct treatment services for individuals with co-occurring mental health and addictive disorders;

Provides consultation and other collaborative supports to medical and psychiatric professionals regarding changes in status, required treatment, security, and housing needs;

Daily monitoring of urine specimen results to ensure correct level of care dispositions are being implemented;

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Direct contact with Lab (Millennium) regarding any missing information on toxicology screenings which may have been omitted;

Monitoring and coverage for the implementation of MOUD services.;

Continual interaction with nursing staff and doctors/prescribers on the unit to provide clinical expertise on cases involving MOUD services to assist them in their clinical diagnosis and maintenance of patients on MOUD therapy; and

Obtaining of urine toxicology screen on all patients per request of nursing staff whether patient has substance misuse or not.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Thorough knowledge of dual diagnosis, social and psychological issues of persons and families affected by alcohol or substance abuse and dependence; thorough knowledge of the techniques and procedures used to treat alcohol or substance dependence; trauma-informed by utilizing a strength-based framework focusing on overall health/wellness; basic knowledge of self-help techniques, self-help group process to facilitate groups and how to access these services within communities; ability to develop and outline safety and relapse prevention plans; basic knowledge of the mental health service delivery systems and of client rights in that system; basic knowledge of human service delivery systems and entitlement programs; ability to verbally engage and empathize with recipients based on common experience; ability to establish rapport and work effectively with persons with mental health and substance use or abuse diagnosis; ability to communicate clearly in English, both orally and in writing; ability to evaluate and assess the medical, psychological, and social needs of alcohol or substance abusing persons, members of

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their families, and significant others; ability to develop comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation plans for persons under treatment and their families; sensitivity to cultural diversity and competency issues; relationship-focused by being respectful, empathic, and collaborative; ability to be patient, encouraging and supportive; ability to teach skills to individuals and monitor application of those skills; person-centered by demonstrating the ability to personalize goals aligned with specific hopes, preferences while responding to specific needs of the individual being served; ability to assertively advocate for clients and negotiate with service providers; ability to work effectively with persons from a variety of socio-economic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds; integrity; and compassion for others.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Possession of an alcoholism and substance abuse counselor credential (C.A.S.A.C.) issued by the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, in accordance with the provisions of 14 NYCRR 853.

NOTE: Your degree or credits must have been awarded by a college or university accredited by a regional, national, or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education/U.S. Secretary of Education. If your degree or credits were awarded by an educational institution outside of the United States and its territories, you must provide independent verification of equivalency. A list of acceptable companies who provide this service can be found on the Internet at: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/jobseeker/degrees.cfm>. You must pay the required evaluation fee.