

## **CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY SPECIALIST**

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** An employee in this class provides a full range of psychotherapy, counseling and social work services to substance abuse clients of a community mental health agency. The work is performed independently with wide leeway allowed for independent judgment and initiative in individual cases. Clinical supervision is received from higher-ranked clinicians at regularly scheduled sessions and on request. Clinical supervision may be exercised over the work of students. Administrative supervision is not a responsibility of an employee in this class. Does related work as required.

**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.

Provides individual and group psychotherapy;

Provides group, individual and family counseling;

Identifies and utilizes all contacts and resources available to the client, including family, friends, employers, community agencies, social service agencies, etc., in order to establish an overall, or systems approach to alcohol and drug treatment;

Provides clinical direction and supervision to students;

Provides advice and guidance to peers on request;

Provides consultation to other agencies in areas of substance abuse;

Attends staff meetings to exchange information and receive supervision;

Establishes and maintains a liaison with a wide range of internal and external agency personnel in order to coordinate and maximize delivery of care;

Maintains records and prepares reports of a narrative and statistical nature as well as general correspondence;

Receives in-service training and keeps abreast of latest developments in the mental health field related to substance abuse;

May be required to be on-call during unscheduled working hours if circumstances of the assignment deem it essential.

**FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:** Thorough knowledge of the causes, effects and symptoms of substance abuse addiction and of counseling and psychotherapeutic techniques to treat those affected; thorough knowledge of area mental health, medical, vocational, legal and social service providers and other available community resources; working knowledge of the causes, effects

and symptoms of mental illness, and of counseling and psychotherapeutic techniques to treat those affected; ability to effectively utilize these other resources in conjunction with direct

clinical services, in an overall psychosocial approach to treating substance abuse clients; ability to establish and maintain effective liaison with a variety of other service providers; ability to establish and maintain a rapport with substance abuse clients and their families; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other agency staff; ability to maintain records and prepare narrative reports, statistical reports and general correspondence; ability to provide clinical supervision to students; willingness to participate in, and benefit from in-service training; willingness to keep abreast of new developments in the mental health field related to substance abuse; sound professional judgment; tact; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Either:

- A. (1) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Doctoral Degree in Clinical Psychology. The doctoral degree must have been granted on the basis of completion of a program of psychology registered with the New York State Department of Education or the substantial equivalent thereof, in accordance with the New York State Commissioner of Education's regulations; **AND**
- (2) Current licensure as a Psychologist issued by the New York State Department of Education; **OR**
- B. (1) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Master's Degree in Social Work including one year of clinical practicum or one year of post-degree clinical experience, if no practicum; **AND**
- (2) Current licensure as a Certified Social Worker by the New York State Department of Education; **OR**
- C. (1) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a masters degree which includes one year of clinical practicum; **AND**
- (2) Possession of certification as a Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC); **OR**
- D. (1) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Clinical Masters Degree from a psychiatric/mental health nursing program, including one year of practicum or one year of post-degree experience, if no practicum; **AND**
- (2) Current licensure as a Registered Nurse by the New York State Department of Education; **OR**
- E. (1) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelors Degree in Nursing/Psychology; **AND**

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(2) Three (3) years of post-degree professional nursing experience in mental health or psychiatric nursing in a position involving direct service to clients; **AND**

(3) Current licensure as a Registered Professional Nurse by the New York State Department of Education; **AND**

(4) Possession of certification as a Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC).

**Special Note:** Pursuant to the Welfare Reform Act of 1996, some positions require CASAC credential.

ULSTER COUNTY  
1160 CHM DEP SP  
Classification: Competitive  
Grade: 17  
Union: CSEA

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