

MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE SPECIALIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position within the Sheriff's Office is part of the ORACLE team which works closely with the community, first responders and law enforcement to follow up with community and law enforcement mental health and substance use referrals. The incumbent will work with Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trained officers when they respond to mental health emergency calls, receive a referral from a community member and/or follow up on intentional overdoses reported. The work involves coordinating mental health systems level care and advocacy as well as providing clinical assessments for individuals and families impacted by mental, social and/or emotional trauma. An employee in this class is also responsible for organizing community level outreach efforts with the purpose of providing mental health education and public awareness. The work is performed under the general supervision as designated by the Sheriff's Office with considerable leeway allowed for the use of independent judgment. Supervision may be exercised over the work of subordinate staff within the ORACLE team. 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.

Builds rapport with individuals suffering from mental illness, provides clinical assessments and makes referrals to participating community based mental health providers;

Coordinates mental health systems level of care and advocacy for individuals and families impacted by mental, social and emotional trauma;

Completes preliminary screening of individuals referred, to help determine level of care necessary, as well as, to help individuals access needed mental health and support services, and makes appropriate referrals;

Conducts on-site and/or field-based outreach, engagement, re-engagement and navigation services;

Collaborates with existing mental health treatment, recovery, and prevention programs;

Organizes community level outreach efforts such as education and community conversations and forums, etc.;

Maintains accurate and timely data entries and notes, to document all contact encounters with individuals;

Develops and submits accurate reports regarding program activities, referrals, clients served, caseload, retention rates, and other information as needed;

Attends community meetings, county task force meetings and work groups to represent the program;

Links individuals to available housing, community resources and social services programs;

Works with private, voluntary and other public agencies to identify the availability of mental health related community services;

Keeps informed of latest developments in the mental health field;

Participates in meetings with the ORACLE Team and Anti-Violence Effort Response Team.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Good knowledge of the causes, effects and symptoms of mental illness as well as mental health treatment and recovery; good knowledge of services provided by the agency and mental health, vocational and social service providers in the area, as well as other community resources available to individuals and families impacted by mental illness; good knowledge of services available through state and local agencies; good knowledge of public education and community outreach techniques; working knowledge of the principles and practices of program administration; ability to establish and maintain rapport with individuals and their families; ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing; ability to identify positively with people; ability to relate to a potentially difficult population; ability to maintain records and prepare narrative reports, statistical reports and general correspondence; good organizational skills; sound professional judgment; tact.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Either:

- A.** (1) Possession of 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) Possession of a Master's Degree in Social Work; **AND**

(2) Current licensure as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) issued by the New York State Department of Education; **OR**

(3) Current licensure as a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW)* issued by the New York State Department of Education with at least twelve (12) months post-degree clinical professional experience; **OR**
- C.** (1) Possession of a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling; **AND**

(2) Current licensure as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) issued by the New York State Department of Education; **OR**
- D.** (1) Possession of a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing/Psychology; **AND**

(2) Two (2) 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.

***Note:** Candidates that possess an LMSW may only provide “clinical social work” services (diagnosis, psychotherapy, and assessment-based treatment planning) under the supervision of a senior level Clinician.

Note: Your degree or college credits must have been awarded or earned 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 was awarded by an educational institution outside 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 <http://www.cs.ny.gov/jobseeker/degrees.cfm>. You must pay the required evaluation fee.

Special Requirement: Possession of a valid New York State driver's license.

ULSTER COUNTY
4318 MH RSP SPE
Classification: Competitive
Union: UCSEA

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