

## **MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST-CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** An employee in this class provides a full range of psychotherapy, counseling, case management and social work services for children and their families. This is the entry level position as a primary therapist in the Ulster County Mental Health Department or Ulster County Department of Social Services. Clinical supervision is received from higher ranked clinicians at regularly scheduled sessions and on request, with considerable leeway allowed for the use of independent judgment and initiative in individual cases. Clinical supervision may be exercised over the work of students serving clinical internships within the agency. 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, family and group psychotherapy including expressive art techniques, play therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy and dialectical behavior therapy as clinically indicated;

Provides on-site as well as off-site interventions including at clinic satellites, the home, school or community as clinically indicated;

Provides case management to clients related to mental health needs;

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

Provides clinical direction and supervision to master's level students (if applicable);

Provides advice and guidance to interdisciplinary team members;

Upon request, provides presentations and lectures on behavioral health issues in areas where the employee has developed a specialty;

Attends and participates in staff meetings to exchange information and give and receive supervision;

Writes timely progress reports, treatment plans and general correspondence related to cases;

Maintains a strengths-based approach;

Keeps abreast of latest developments in the mental health field, as well as child and family treatments by attending available trainings;

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 mental illness and of counseling and psychotherapeutic techniques including expressive therapies for children and their families; thorough knowledge of area behavioral health, medical, educational, vocational, legal and social service providers and other available community resources and ability to effectively utilize these resources, in conjunction with direct clinical services, in an overall psychosocial approach to treating the client; working knowledge of child development; ability to establish and maintain effective liaison with a variety of other service providers; ability to establish and maintain rapport with behavioral health clients and their families; ability to maintain clinical documentation as required by agency policy and the New York State Office of Mental Health; ability to maintain confidentiality as required by agency policy, HIPAA and the New York State Office of Mental Health; ability to provide clinical supervision to students; willingness to participate in and benefit from in-service training; willingness to keep abreast of new developments related to behavioral health, and child and family treatment; willingness to maintain flexible working hours, including evenings as needed to meet the needs of clients and families; sound professional judgment; tact.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Either:

- A. (1) Graduation from an accredited 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 an accredited college or university with a Master's Degree in Social Work including one (1) year of clinical practicum/internship; **AND**  
  
(2) Current licensure as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) 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 eighteen (18) months of post-degree clinical professional experience with children and/or families; **OR**
- C. (1) Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling including one (1) year of clinical practicum/internship; **AND**  
  
(2) Current licensure as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) issued 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.

**Special Requirement:** At time of appointment, and throughout employment in this title, candidates must possess a valid New York State driver's license.

**Special Requirement:** Candidates must complete continuing education training hours as required by the New York State Department of Education to maintain professional licensure with no lapses in licensure during terms of employment.

ULSTER COUNTY  
4325 MHS CHD SV  
Classification: Competitive  
4314 MHS CS HLP  
Classification: Non-Competitive  
Grade 17  
Union: CSEA

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