

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF WORK

- The Therapist will work with the Recovery and Diversion program and duties include comprehensive psycho-social evaluations and individual therapy.
- The Therapist helps individuals whose legal involvement may be a result of untreated mental illness or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders.
- The Therapists goal is to assist in getting the client rehabilitated, stabilized, and connected with necessary treatment. The Therapist will report to Division Director in the Public Defender's Office 6th Circuit.

JOB SPECIFIC DUTIES

- Assists in the early disposition of cases prior to arraignment
- Facilitates negotiation and settlement of cases
- Arranges custody releases
- Devises appropriate treatment plans to be presented to the Courts as alternatives to incarceration
- Develops plans and arrange for habilitative or rehabilitative counseling and direct services
- Interviews clients, refers clients to appropriate resources and facilitates access to resources
- Assists in pre-sentence, post-sentence, penalty phase, and other investigations
- Gathers information about the client's family, education, social, employment, military, and treatment history.
- Identifies and outlines background information for use by experts
- Assesses treatment options and provides disposition and treatment recommendations
- Locates and develops community services to meet client needs, and maintains an updated resource manual
- Provides psychological histories, diagnostic impressions, and makes referrals for crisis counseling
- Secures psychiatric, psychological and neurological evaluations from consultants
- Prepares psychosocial evaluations
- Provides information about community resources and correctional institutions to the Courts and attorneys
- Assists with training and coordinating the activities of Disposition Specialists

- Staff cases with attorneys and others, as needed
- Gather psychosocial information, including interviewing people with relevant personal information and obtaining school, work, military, medical and psychological/psychiatric records and prior treatment, rehabilitative, or habilitative history
- Develop client lifeline (relevant psychosocial history in a timeline format)
- Research current relevant diagnostic and treatment literature
- Develop or assist in the development of a Disposition Services Training/Resource Manual
- Develop or assist in the development of resources, such as lists of providers, with contact information, admission criteria, etc.
- Train or assist in the training of new disposition specialists and staff cases with new and experienced disposition specialists
- Develop or assist in developing office-wide training to maintain or improve outcomes for clients with physical, mental or developmental disturbances
- Act as an ambassador for the office with community agencies and programs
- Integrated screening and assessment
- Responsible for determining a client's diagnosis based on the diagnostic criteria from DSM-5
- Individualized counseling to explore substance abuse and criminal thinking, as well as mental health treatment
- Works effectively with diverse groups and individuals experiencing an exacerbation of either psychiatric or substance use, as well as experiencing a stressful situation
- Relapse prevention programming/services
- Adherence to The Florida Bar requirements regarding Attorney-Client Privilege and confidentiality
- Attending case staffings and help to the Attorneys in case planning
- Needs assessments, as requested by the Attorneys, and identifying services necessary to meet the needs of the client
- Accomplishes department and organization mission by completing related tasks as needed

NOTE: These examples are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work performed in positions allocated to this class. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related, or a logical assignment to the position.

SKILLS

- Good communication skills, both verbal and written.
- Ability to work independently

- Demonstrated commitment to the provision of high-quality social services
- Sympathetic understanding of the social, economic, as well as legal problems of individuals with limited access to legal services

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience in providing individual counseling emphasizing co-occurring mental health and substance abuse concerns
- Experience in comprehensive psychosocial assessments/evaluations
- Experience in determining a diagnosis based on the DSM-5

MINIMUM TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

- Graduation from an accredited college or university with a master's degree in social work, psychology, mental health counseling or a related field and at least one year of professional experience, or an equivalent combination of training and experience.
- An equivalency diploma issued by a state department of education may be substituted for high school graduation.
- Fully Licensed or Registered Intern preferred

If you are a retiree of the Florida Retirement System (FRS), please check with the FRS at 1-844-377-1888 on how your current benefits may be affected if you are re-employed with the State of Florida. Your current retirement benefits may be canceled, suspended, or deemed ineligible depending upon the date of your retirement.

The State of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Affirmative Action Employer and does not tolerate discrimination or violence in the workplace.

Candidates requiring a reasonable accommodation, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, must notify the agency hiring authority and/or People First Service Center (1-866-663-4735). Notification to the hiring authority must be made in advance to allow sufficient time to provide accommodation.

The State of Florida supports a Drug-Free workplace. All employees are subject to reasonable suspicion drug testing in accordance with Section 112.0455, F.S., Drug-Free Workplace Act.

Benefits

- Florida Retirement System benefits
- Life Insurance Coverage
- Comprehensive Medical and Prescription Drug Coverage
- Preventive Care Benefits and Wellness Program
- College Tuition Reimbursement

- Annual Leave and Sick Leave
- Paid Holidays
- To learn more about the eligible employee benefits available, please visit:
www.mybenefits.myflorida.com

To Apply

Send Resume and Cover Letter to: Apply@flpd6.gov