

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH THERAPIST TRAINEE

Definition:

Under direct supervision of a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT), Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Psychologist, or Psychiatrist, to receive training in marriage and family therapy within a range of clinical experiences.

Distinguishing Characteristics

This is the trainee level position in the Behavioral Health Therapist flexible classification series. Appointees must be students enrolled at an accredited college or university in a Clinical, Counseling, Social Work, Sociology or Psychology graduate program. This classification is designed to provide graduate students with the means to accumulate hours of supervised experience necessary to meet the degree requirements. Trainees work under close supervision in the performance of assisting with diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, evaluation and follow-up of clients. This class is distinguished from the other classes in the Behavioral Health Therapist series in that trainees assist Therapists in providing Behavioral health counseling services for adults, children and family groups.

Appointees to the trainee classification must be within 90 days of acquiring a Master's degree in Social Work, Counseling, Sociology or Psychology leading to eligibility for registration with the State of California as an Associate Clinical Social Worker, Associate Marriage and Family Therapist, or an Associate Professional Clinical Counselor.

Incumbents who successfully complete a graduate program and are eligible for registration with the State of California as an Associate Clinical Social Worker Associate Marriage and Family Therapist, or Associate Professional Clinical Counselor may be promoted to Behavioral Health Therapist I. Such promotions are considered on a merit basis subject to the recommendation by the department head and approval by the Chief Human Resources Officer.

Essential Functions:

- Assists in providing counseling either collectively or individually.
- Assists in diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, evaluation and follow-up of consumers or clients.
- Selects and administers personality, intelligence, and other clinical tests and interprets results.
- Learns to prepare psychological case reports.
- Participates in individual and group supervision at least one (1) hour for every five (5) hours of clinical contact.
- May assist in consulting and advising representatives of interested groups regarding the care and rehabilitation of patients or clients
- May assist with planning and conducting clinical studies.
- Participates in training programs and department meetings.
- Writes reports and keeps records.
- Performs other job-related duties as required.

Employment Standards:

Bachelor's degree and enrollment in a Marriage and Family Therapist, Clinical Social Work, Counseling, Sociology or Psychology graduate program at an accredited college or university leading to eligibility for registration with the State of California as an Associate Clinical Social Worker, Associate Marriage and Family Therapist, or an Associate Professional Clinical Counselor.

Degree required: Within one 90 days of employment, Behavioral Health Therapist Trainee appointees must acquire a Master's degree in Social Work, Counseling, Sociology or Psychology. Within 180 days of hire incumbents must obtain and maintain a current and valid associate registration with the State of California. Failure to maintain a current and valid registration may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Dependent upon assignment, applicants maybe required to pass an extensive background investigation and be fingerprinted. Disqualification for felony, misdemeanor, and traffic offenses will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

A valid California Class "C" Driver's License is required at the time of appointment.

Knowledge of: the basic principles of marriage and family counseling applicable to the care, treatment and rehabilitation of children and adults with behavioral, developmental or psychological disturbances; basic principles and techniques of psychological testing methods and devices; record keeping; and report writing and techniques.

Ability to: learn and apply the laws, rules and regulations governing public mental health; learn and apply the principles and techniques of counseling and case record keeping; learn to conduct interviews; learn to administer psychological tests; learn to work with groups and individuals to effect changes in behavior; communicate effectively orally and in writing; relate professionally with public and private agencies; and establish and maintain cooperative work relationships.

A background check may be conducted for this classification.

All Kern County employees are designated "Disaster Service Workers" through state and local laws (CA Government Code Sec. 3100-3109 and Ordinance Code Title 2-Administration, Ch. 2.66 Emergency Services.) As Disaster Service Workers, all County employees are expected to remain at work, or to report for work as soon as practicable following a significant emergency or disaster.

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