

PRE-LICENSED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

Definition:

Under direct supervision of a licensed psychologist or Board-certified psychiatrist, provides direct mental health services including assessment, individual and group therapies, crisis intervention and case management to children, transitional age youth, adults and older adults and assists in the implementation of Kern Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (KernBHRS) treatment programs.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Pre-licensed Psychologist is the entry-level classification in the Clinical Psychologist classification series. Incumbents hired into this class series provide services to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders populations served through the KernBHRS. Pre-licensed Psychologists, under functional supervision of a licensed psychologist or board-certified psychiatrist, obtain the necessary experience toward licensure by the California State Board of Psychology. Promotion to Clinical Psychologist I is considered on a merit basis after the employee has received a valid California License as a Psychologist, is subject to the recommendation of the Director of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, and the approval of the Chief Human Resources Officer.

Incumbents may be required to work flexible hours including evenings and weekends.

Essential Functions:

- Provides comprehensive assessment, treatment planning, treatment and case management to seriously and persistently mentally ill adults and emotionally disturbed children with co-existing alcohol and drug abuse disorders; documents clinical activity; presents diagnostic and interview findings, clinical evaluations, and recommendations for treatment and rehabilitation of patients; consults with physicians and psychiatrists about findings of medical or physical examinations and the need for further special testing or treatment; selects, administers, and evaluates psychological testing.
- Conducts structured rehabilitation and impairment/symptom focused groups, family education and support groups; and provides field evaluations, treatment, and case management as needed.
- Evaluates patients for suicide and violence risks; conducts assessments for involuntary hospitalization; provides crisis intervention services in the field or in the office; appears in court regarding recommendations, reports, and contested actions.
- Provides psychological evaluations, treatment, and consultation at the jail and locked unit sites.
- Participates in quality assurance programs and in interdisciplinary-team reviews of staff clinical activity.
- Establishes and maintains collaborative relationships with other agencies.
- Performs other job-related functions as required.

Employment Standards:

Must have received or be within three (3) months of receiving a doctorate degree in psychology, educational psychology, education with a field specialization in counseling psychology or education with a field specialization in educational psychology from an approved or accredited educational institution that meets the educational requirements for licensure as a psychologist in the State of California. The doctoral program must have included 1500 hours of clinical internship (Section 2914 of the California Business and Professions Code).

AND

- A. Eligible for a Mental Health Professional Licensing Waiver from the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Pre-licensed psychologist candidates cannot be employed to provide mental health services unless they obtain a Mental Health Professional Licensing Waiver from DHCS. A waiver granted may not exceed five years from the date of initial issuance of waiver. A California license as a Licensed Psychologist must be obtained within five (5) years from the initial date of issuance of Mental Health Professional Licensing Waiver to continue to qualify to perform mental health services under this job description.

OR

- B. Current valid registration as a Psychological Assistant with the Board of Psychology of the State of California. A California license as a Licensed Psychologist must be obtained within six (6) years from the initial date of initial registration as a Psychological Assistant with the Board of Psychology of the State of California to continue to qualify to perform mental health services under this job description.

Dependent upon assignment, applicants may be 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.

Possession of a valid California Class C Driver's License is required.

Knowledge of: psychopathology; rehabilitation of seriously and persistently mentally ill adults or emotionally disturbed children; administration and interpretation of psychological tests; computer-assisted psychological tests; assessment and treatment intervention appropriate with the seriously and persistently mentally ill adults or emotionally disturbed clients; crisis intervention management; alcohol and drug abuse disorders; descriptive and inferential statistics; community resources available for clients.

Ability to: read and interpret best practices and research practices for service and program evaluation; work collaboratively with staff of various disciplines and with partner agencies; write accurate and comprehensive assessments and reports with clarity and precision; conduct various types of group therapies; conduct clinical interviews and draw treatment inferences; work effectively with seriously and persistently mentally ill adults or emotionally disturbed children, and their families; educate and support family members.

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.