

SUBSTANCE ABUSE THERAPIST 1**Nature of Work**

Under general supervision, performs professional work at the full-performance level interviewing clients to obtain information on the history and severity of their addiction. Is required to develop and maintain successful collaborative contacts with local mental health agencies. In conjunction with treatment team, plans discharge of client by determining after-care activities, continued counseling, and living arrangements conducive to continued sobriety and recovery. Performs related work as required.

Distinguishing Characteristic

Work at this level is characterized by the absence of lead or supervisory duties over other staff. This is the full-performance level at which standard substance abuse therapy is practical.

Examples of Work

- Interviews clients to obtain social history.
- Compiles client information files, which include client intake history, treatment plans, progress documentation, reports, and discharge summaries.
- Performs crisis intervention.
- Writes recommendations concerning recommended treatment and expected progress for clients in courtordered treatment.
- Counsels clients and their families to identify and address problems which contribute to the substance abuser's behavior.
- Refers clients and their families to appropriate support services to help diminish stresses which can occur during the rehabilitation process.
- Attends meetings, seminars and workshops to keep abreast of new information and treatment alternatives available to substance abusers and their families.
- Conducts individual and group therapy sessions and facilitates educational programs for clients and their families.
- Compiles client information files which include information such as client intake histories, treatment plans, progress documentation, reports written to agencies and courts and discharge summaries.
- Writes monthly reports on each client to summarize treatment and progress.
- Arranges follow-up treatment for clients with outside agencies and groups involved with assisting recovering substance

abusers.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Knowledge of the principles of working in a treatment program.
- Knowledge of interview techniques.
- Knowledge of the workings of community organizations available for substance abusers and their families.
- Knowledge of the purpose, function and services of self-help groups for substance abusers.
- Ability to counsel people and inspire their confidence in themselves.
- Ability to assess clients' needs.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective counselor-client relationships.
- Ability to interpret the resources available to substance abusers and to encourage the use of such resources.
- Ability to complete all necessary records, reports, etc.

Minimum Qualifications

- TRAINING Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a major in counseling, counseling and guidance, psychology, social work, education or a related social or behavioral science.
- SUBSTITUTION Full-time or equivalent part-time specific experience in social work or counseling with substance abuse clients may be substituted on a year-for-year basis for the required training.

Established: 8/20/92
Effective: 9/15/92