

SUBSTANCE ABUSE THERAPIST 2**Nature of Work**

Under general supervision, performs professional work at the full-performance level monitoring the operation of public substance abuse treatment facilities to ensure adherence to legal restrictions and appropriateness of treatment. Provides technical assistance and consultation to facilities which provide substance abuse treatment on meeting licensure requirements, obtaining funding, and the development of policies and procedures. Performs standard therapist duties. Performs related work as required.

Distinguishing Characteristic

Work at this level is characterized by the element of supervision over professional and support staff.

Examples of Work

- Interviews clients to obtain social history.
- Writes recommendations concerning recommended treatment and expected progress for clients in court-ordered 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.
- Advises lower level counselors and treatment staff as needed; monitors staff during training, sitting in on counseling sessions, reviewing proposed treatment plans and auditing educational programs.
- May refer the substance abuser and/or family to voluntary or

public agencies for assistance in job training, placement or other rehabilitation services.

May direct and/or monitor adjunctive programs as assigned supervisor.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Knowledge of the principles of working in a treatment program.

Knowledge of interview techniques.

Knowledge of counseling and guidance practices in substance abuse treatment.

Knowledge of the principles of working in a treatment program.

Knowledge of case management activities and techniques such as intake-assessments and knowing how to analyze the information to determine underlying causes, treatment planning, how to structure and direct the course of individual and group therapy, and how to structure discharge plans to help the client readjust to the social situations outside the treatment program.

Knowledge of the of community resources 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 secure the cooperation of employers, educators, and cooperating agencies.

Ability to supervise professional support staff.

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 as described below may substitute on a year-for-year basis for the required training.

EXPERIENCE Two years of full-time or equivalent part-time paid professional employment in counseling, social work, teaching or other responsible work involving personal contact with the public in a problem solving capacity one year of which must have been in a treatment program for substance abusers.

Established: 8/20/92

Effective: 9/15/92