

FAMILY AND YOUTH COUNSELING SPECIALIST

Code No.: 6-06-014
COMPETITIVE

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is a professional position requiring the practice of in-depth counseling techniques, group process skills and crisis intervention strategies with youth within a family systems framework. The employee is responsible for providing counseling to youth and families demonstrating symptomatic behavior or requiring behavior change for interpersonal growth. Emphasis is on prevention and early intervention rather than crisis intervention but employee is available for crisis counseling on a 24 hour emergency basis. Employees receive general direction from a higher level administrator. Supervision is not a responsibility of this class. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES (All need not be performed in a given position. Other related activities may be performed although not listed):

Convenes family members for the purpose of assessing the dynamics of the youth's symptomatic behaviors in relationship to the family system;

Assesses youth and family's strengths and resources and encourages the family's awareness and utilization;

Develops and implements treatment plans and strategies to change problematic and/or unhealthy family interactional patterns;

Employs various family counseling approaches and techniques to help determine influences on current problems;

Counsels youth on an individual basis to foster changes in current problem behaviors;

Designs and implements specialized training workshops, groups and seminars for students, teachers, parents, youth and community interest groups;

Responds to and assists police, courts, schools and individuals by providing crisis intervention to youth and their families;

Consults and co-counsels with other liaison service providers; makes effective referrals to other agencies or professionals as appropriate;

Acts as youth advocate with judicial system and provides progress reports and recommendations for services;

Confers with school and law enforcement and/or court officials and designs programs for youth as alternative to suspension or the criminal justice system;
Performs career exploration and employment counseling with youth;

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Maintains case files and compiles statistics for data reports.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL

CHARACTERISTICS: Good knowledge of general systems theory; working knowledge of family therapy theories; good knowledge of individual and group counseling theories; good knowledge of adolescent and developmental psychology; good knowledge of the physical changes of adolescents; good knowledge of group dynamics; good knowledge of community services and agencies; ability to apply family and individual counseling techniques; ability to apply group process skills and act as group facilitator; ability to deal effectively in the area of human sexuality; ability to maintain confidentiality with clients; ability to communicate effectively and establish good rapport with professionals, parents, youth and staff; ability to isolate and focus on core issues; ability to establish priorities; strong organizational ability; ability to work within the police, judicial and school system and learn related procedures; ability to maintain composure under unusual circumstances or in crisis situations; integrity; good judgment; tact; courtesy; initiative; creativity; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: EITHER:

- (A) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered four (4) year college or university with a Bachelor's degree and five (5) years experience in family counseling; OR,
- (B) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered four (4) year college or university with a Bachelor's degree in social work, sociology, psychology, human services or a closely related field and two (2) years experience in family counseling; OR,
- (C) Graduation from a regionally accredited New York State registered college or university with a Master's degree in counseling, social work, psychology or closely related field and five (5) months experience in family counseling.

NOTE: Volunteer work internships, externships, and work blocks may be counted as experience.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOCES

Per Chapter 180 of the Laws of 2000, and by Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, to be employed in a position designated by a school district or BOCES as involving direct contact with students, a clearance for employment from the State Education Department is required.

REVISED: January 18, 1990