



VOLUSIA COUNTY SCHOOLS

Position Description

MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST

(K-12 CURRICULUM AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SERVICES)

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Master's Degree
- Five (5) years experience in mental health and/or crisis counseling
- Experience working with adolescents with mental health and social emotional concerns
- Experience in coordinating professional development related to mental health and working with adolescents
- Licensed as a Mental Health Professional
- Experience with School Based Mental Health Services preferred
- Possess a valid Florida Driver's License; if a holder of any other valid US state-issued Driver's License, agree to acquire a Florida Driver's License within thirty (30) days of employment, except in a case where accommodation is required

REQUIRED SKILLS

- Ability to communicate and work effectively with students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community members to accomplish the required task
- Demonstrated ability in planning, organization, task completion and decision making to perform required tasks with sufficient intellectual ability
- Ability to exercise sound judgment in handling problem situations with competence in human and interpersonal relations skills
- Demonstrates competence in administrative and supervisory requirements
- Demonstrates competence in the techniques to analyze and assess the mental health needs of individual students
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, including presentations and publications
- Demonstrates competence in student management techniques
- Demonstrates competence in the techniques used to evaluate mental health needs
- Demonstrates competence in human and interpersonal relationship skills
- Demonstrates competency in the DSM V and ICD-10
- Demonstrates knowledge of community mental health resources
- Demonstrate the ability to engage in physical activity appropriate to the required task, except for temporary disability
- Ability to exercise sound judgment in handling sensitive and confidential information
- Ability to exhibit appropriate control of emotions
- Ability to perform required tasks with sufficient intellectual ability
- Strong computer skills including report writing
- Ability to have a flexible schedule. Position may require some evening work
- Reliable transportation

REPORTS TO Specialist, Mental Health

SUPERVISES Not applicable

POSITION GOAL

To help link students and families to community resources, evaluate individual mental health goals and needs, and to assist students in developing appropriate coping strategies and implement individual mental health responses and plans

PERFORMANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Determine the appropriate level of response for a student in distress
 - a) Initiate a Baker Act, when appropriate
 - b) Link students and families to community mental health resources, when appropriate
 - c) Coordinate transition plans for students transitioning from mental health agencies
 - d) Conduct Mental Health Screenings and threat assessments on referred students

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2. *Through individual and group counseling, help each student to:
 - a) Understand their self in relation to the social and psychological work in which he lives and to develop positive self-esteem.
 - b) Develop personal decision-making competencies.
 - c) Develop coping strategies for dealing with a crisis and problem solving
 - d) Resolve special problems, such as living with loss, suicide prevention, new student orientation and school adjustment, divorce, abuse and neglect, substance abuse prevention, dropout prevention, health and safety issues (including pregnancy).
3. *Collect and disseminate to students and their parents information concerning community resources, post-vention strategies and information concerning mental health.
4. *Coordinate the use of services available beyond those the counselor can provide by:
 - a) Making students and their parents aware of the availability of mental health services.
 - b) Make referrals to community mental health agency
 - c) Conduct Baker Acts when appropriate and necessary
 - d) Serve as a member of the Threat Assessment Response Team
 - e) Maintaining liaison and cooperative working relationships with other student services specialists and with agencies in the community where mental health services are available.
5. *Assist in providing placement services for students in need by:
 - a) Planning with school counselors and administrators for the grouping and scheduling of students.
 - b) Helping students make appropriate choices.
 - c) Coordinating with others for the most effective use of the placement services available in the community for students in need.
6. *Help parents by:
 - a) Acting as a consultant regarding the growth, development and mental well-being of their children.
 - b) Providing information about their children.
 - c) Assisting to develop individual treatment plans.
 - d) Provide family counseling to students and families in need of assistance.
7. *Serve as a consultant to members of the administrative and teaching staffs in the area of mental health by:
 - a) Sharing appropriate individual student data.
 - b) Helping to identify students with mental health needs and problems.
8. *Maintain all records and reports legally required or administratively useful, in support of and to document compliance.
9. *Provide and coordinate professional development opportunities for parents and staff.
10. Provide Youth Mental Health Training to all staff as outlined in state statute.
11. Accurately complete and maintain all components of required case documentation on all clinical records for student seen in counseling.
12. Make home visits to discuss students' issues with parents, offer counseling where appropriate, and develop plans with parent and school staff.
13. Monitor Concern of Harms and work collaboratively with Student Services professional in coordinating services.
14. *Provide and coordinate informational sessions for students, families and community members on the topic of Mental Health.
15. Perform other related duties as assigned by the Coordinator, Student and Government Relations.

*Denotes essential job function/ADA

ADA CODES

Physical Requirements (physical conditions of a position)

- A. Light Work - Exerting up to 20 pounds of force occasionally and/or up to 10 pounds of force frequently. If the use of arm and/or leg controls requires exertion of forces greater than that for sedentary work and the worker sits most of the time, the job is rated as Light Work.

Physical Activity (physical activities of a position)

- A. Sitting - Resting with the body supported by the buttocks or thighs.
- B. Walking - Moving about on foot to accomplish tasks, particularly for long distances.
- C. Climbing - Ascending or descending ladders, stairs, scaffolding, ramps, poles, etc. Using feet and legs and/or hands and arms.
- D. Twisting - Moving body from the waist using a turning motion.
- E. Reaching - Extending hand(s) and arm(s) in any direction.
- F. Pushing - Using upper extremities to press against something with steady force in order to thrust forward, downward or outward exerting up to 20 pounds of force.
- G. Pulling - Using upper extremities to drag, haul or tug objects in a sustained motion exerting up to 20 pounds of force.
- H. Lifting - Raising objects from a lower to a higher position or moving objects horizontally from position to position through the use of the upper extremities and back muscles exerting up to 20 pounds of force.
- I. Finger Dexterity - Picking, pinching, typing or otherwise working primarily with fingers rather than with the whole hand or arm.
- J. Grasping - Applying pressure to an object with the fingers and palm.
- K. Repetitive Motions - Substantial and continuous movements of the wrists, hands, and/or fingers.

- L. Talking - Expressing or exchanging ideas by means of the spoken word. Those activities in which detailed or important spoken instructions must be conveyed accurately, loudly or quickly.
- M. Hearing Acuity - The ability to perceive speech and other environmental sounds at normal loudness levels.
- N. Visual Acuity - The power to see at a level which allows reading of numbers and text, operation of equipment, inspection of machines, etc.

Working Conditions (conditions the worker will be subject in a position)

- A. Indoors - The worker is subject to inside environmental conditions. There is protection from weather conditions but not necessarily from temperature changes.