

SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR (SCHOOL)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position involves identifying and providing direct individual and group counseling to substance abusers and their families as well as those students deemed to be at risk as defined by state regulations. The identification may come from self-referral, referral from school personnel, parents, or other agencies. The incumbent will develop a counseling program that will take into account both long and short range treatment goals with early intervention a primary focus. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative only)

Develops individualized treatment plans for clients directed toward direct intervention and therapeutic services;
 Analyzes individual client's problems, and develops short/long range counseling (treatment goals) and alternate strategies and diversion techniques;
 Develops and presents specialized technical workshops and general awareness school and community education programs;
 Provides immediate and supportive reinforcement to clients in crises intervention situations;
 Develops and implements group counseling techniques;
 Provides professional consultation services to school personnel and school community in general with regard to substance abuse;
 Referrals to school psychologist, counselors, and professionals based on analysis of behavior of clients. Could include networking with other county and state agencies to meet perceived student needs;
 Performs activities related to the maintenance and individual follow-up to cases and client records;
 Prepares and maintains various reports and records as required.

FULL PERFORMANCES KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of principles, practices and procedures used in the development of substance abuse client treatment programs through knowledge of individual and group counseling techniques and methodology as they relate to a substance abuse intervention program; good knowledge of the drug abuser, his/her language, type of abuse, and pharmacology of abused drugs; good knowledge of the psychological and socio-economic attributes that lead or may lead to substance abuse; good knowledge of the various agencies providing intervention and therapeutic services to substance abusers; working knowledge of child and adolescent development and behavior; working knowledge of family structure, roles, problems and response; ability to establish a rapport with substance abuse clients, educators, mental health professionals, criminal justice officials and the general public; ability to provide positive role model and motivate clients; ability to develop individualized treatment plans directed towards direct intervention and therapeutic services; ability to make remedial psychological and supportive reinforcement; ability to develop and present workshops and community education program; ability to conduct individual and group counseling sessions; ability to prepare oral and written reports on activities and cases; ability to maintain accurate records and documents; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position; a participating member of the Support Student Team.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR (SCHOOL) - (contd.)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Either:

- (a) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Master's degree in Social Work, Psychology, rehabilitation counseling or a closely related field; or
- (b) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, Psychology, rehabilitation counseling, or a closely related field and one year of experience providing direct counseling services to substance abusers; or
- (c) Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma and five years of experience as defined in (b); or
- (d) An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (a), (b) and (c).

NOTE: Verifiable part time and/or volunteer experience will be pro-rated toward meeting full time experience requirements.