

ADDICTIONS COUNSELOR

New Class No.: 6103
Written to Replace: New Classification
SOC Code: 21-1011.00 - Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder
Counselors
Draft Date: 12-27-07

SERIES CONCEPT

The Addictions counselor is a healthcare professional who counsels clients and patients, individually and in group sessions, to assist in overcoming dependencies.

Incumbents may be assigned to any of a wide variety of programs including psychiatric treatment, substance abuse treatment, gambling, forensic, sex offenders, dual diagnosis, developmentally disabled, maternal child health services, etc. Patients may vary in socioeconomic, cultural, emotional, and/or physical needs and may be confused, disoriented, aggressive or hostile. Some settings may involve exposure to communicable diseases, lifting and moving patients or equipment weighing up to 50 pounds and may involve restraining patients.

Interviews clients, reviews records, and confers with other professionals to evaluate individuals' mental and physical condition, and to determine their suitability for participation in a specific program. Develops client treatment plans based on research, clinical experience, and client histories. Develops discharge treatment plans. Provides clients or family members with information about addiction issues and about available services and programs, making appropriate referrals when necessary. Conducts evaluations and screenings of potential clients. Completes and maintains accurate records and reports regarding the patients' histories and progress, services provided, and other required information. Reviews and evaluates clients' progress in relation to measurable goals described in treatment and care plans. Intervenes as advocate for clients or patients to resolve emergency problems in crisis situations. Modifies treatment plans to comply with changes in client status. Coordinates counseling efforts with mental health professionals and other health professionals such as doctors, nurses, and social workers. Develops treatment records. Develops and updates appropriate educational and counseling materials for program participants. Participates in evaluating the effectiveness of the program. Files reports of compliance or noncompliance of clients who are court-ordered to attend the program. Writes reports about the substance abuse program and the data and statistics developed in the program; Attend training sessions to increase knowledge and skills in profession.

Performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

There is a single classification and not part of a series. Therefore distinguishing features are not applicable.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS & SKILLS

EXPERIENCE: Two years of professional counseling in a community organization or treatment center established for the purpose of aiding individuals with addiction-related psychological, social and physical problems, AND

EDUCATION: Equivalent to graduation from college with course work in psychology, social psychology, sociology, or a closely related field. (Additional qualifying experience may be substituted for up to two years of the required education on a year-for-year basis.)

CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE: Certificate in alcohol and drug counseling/chemical dependency (CADC) AND a valid Oregon State Driver's license.

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS:

- Knowledge of the treatment of chemical dependency; modern treatment services and programs; and literature on current substance abuse treatment studies;
- Knowledge of individual and group behavior;
- Skill in working with resistant and manipulative treatment populations or in dealing with developmentally disabled inmates;
- Ability to provide appropriate and consistent treatment while maintaining jail security and appropriate inmate behavior; ensure continuity of care for inmates as they transfer or progress through the system.
- Ability to conduct evaluations with verified evaluation tools and conduct and develop interesting and informative lecture groups;
- Ability to maintain control of manipulative and disruptive populations;
- Ability to facilitate therapy groups and individual counseling sessions;
- Ability to set boundaries with inmates who push the limits and remove inmates from treatment for breaking the rules;
- Ability to plan, organize and accomplish work assignments;
- Ability to communicate effectively verbally (including interviewing techniques) and in writing.
- Problem identification/problem-solving
- Demonstrated positive interpersonal and communication skills with colleagues, patients, families, physicians, and the community.