



## JUVENILE COURT MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATION SPECIALIST

**Department:** Juvenile Court

**Job Class #:** 485200

**Pay Range:** Professional 08

**FLSA:** Non-Exempt

**Represented:** No

Classification descriptions are intended to present a descriptive list of the range of duties performed by employees in this class and are not intended to reflect all duties performed within the job.

**GENERAL FUNCTION:** Employees in this classification are responsible for the evaluation of incarcerated youth with mental health and wellness issues in Pierce County Juvenile Detention (Remann Hall). Work involves the evaluation of detained youth, crisis intervention and stabilization services, and referrals to community services upon release. Incumbents work closely with detention staff regarding appropriate security levels and housing recommendations factoring in clinical assessment regarding suicide risk and vulnerability due to a mental disorder or development disability, and to oversee and ensure that appropriate care is given within the detention facility and/or available upon release or transfer to another facility.

### **ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:**

- Receive referrals, prioritize and triage youth who have been detained at Remann Hall and are in need of mental health services or who have been diagnosed with a mental health disorder.
- Provide a brief mental health assessment, and release planning within 24 hours for detained youth identified as needing mental health services or who have been diagnosed with a mental health disorder.
- Evaluate psychological condition of referred youth as requested.
- Determine appropriate housing needs for youth who present with mental health and behavior challenges in juvenile detention and upon release or transfer.
- Assess the involvement and extent of substance abuse and make appropriate referrals.
- Write reports, including diagnoses, treatment plans and recommendations, progress reports, and other special reports as required.
- Screen referrals for psychiatric medication assessments.
- Make recommendations for on-going treatment options.
- Provide risk assessment and brief crisis stabilization services.
- Make involuntary treatment referrals.
- Follow-up on treatment recommendation and deal with emergency and crisis situations as required within the detention setting.
- Coordinate transportation for voluntary hospitalizations and assure custody staff is advised of arranged ambulance transport by DMHP (Designated Mental Health Professional) for involuntary detentions.
- Consult with detention staff, coordinate care with multi-disciplinary team of treatment professionals within the Juvenile Court and work with provider liaisons/case managers to ensure proper treatment of youth with mental health and behavior challenges.
- Present expert testimony to court regarding mental health status as required.
- Provide training to providers on accessing new and/or existing consumers from the correctional setting.
- Identify system concerns and assist in developing appropriate interventions.
- Provide education to providers as necessary to facilitate cross system coordination.
- Maintain regular, predictable and punctual attendance during regularly scheduled work hours at assigned worksite.
- Meet travel requirements of the position.
- Perform the physical requirements of the position; work within the established working conditions of the position.

# JUVENILE COURT MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATION SPECIALIST

## Classification Description – Pierce County

### Page 2

- Work a flexible schedule, which may include evenings, weekends, holidays and overtime.

#### **OTHER JOB FUNCTIONS:**

- Perform other job functions as assigned.

#### **SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED:**

Work is performed with considerable independence in accordance with Department policies, state and federal laws regarding the care of the mentally ill and is reviewed by an administrative supervisor. This position does not supervise but may provide training and guidance to new and temporary employees.

**WORK ENVIRONMENT:** The work environment characteristics described herein are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of the position. Mental Health Evaluation Specialists work in the confined indoor space of a maximum security juvenile detention facility. There may be constant exposure to hazardous chemicals, hazardous waste, bio-hazardous material, pharmaceuticals, infectious diseases and in-person contact with inmates. Attendance at meetings outside of normal work hours may be required. Work schedules include shift work, holidays, overtime and weekends and may require reporting to work in the event of emergency.

**PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:** The physical demands described herein are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions. Physical and mental demands include ability to perform tasks involved in operating common office and medical equipment; walk; climb stairs; sit and stand for long periods of time; manual dexterity to include bending, stooping, pushing, pulling and reaching; digital dexterity; talking; seeing; hearing; reasoning and analyzing complex information. Travel to meeting locations may be required.

#### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES**

##### **Knowledge of:**

- Psychiatric disorders.
- Current APA diagnostic standards.
- Correctional Mental Health Care
- Psychological testing.
- Treatment plans.
- Juvenile justice system, Title 13 RCW.
- Criminal Justice system and RCW 10.77, 71.05 and WAC 388-865.
- State and federal laws for involuntary commitments.
- Substance abuse, psychiatric medications, and individual and group psycho-dynamics.
- Community resources.

##### **Skill in:**

- Use of independent judgment and effective decision-making in the application of a wide variety of laws, policies and procedures and in effective problem-solving.

##### **Ability to:**

- Evaluate and screen youth who present with mental health and wellness issues.
- Make treatment recommendations.
- Work in an authoritative, stressful environment.
- Work independently.

## JUVENILE COURT MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATION SPECIALIST

### Classification Description – Pierce County

#### Page 3

#### **Ability to (cont.):**

- Use a personal computer.
- Understand and follow written and verbal instructions.
- Work effectively and productively with others.
- Communicate effectively verbally and in writing to audiences of various social, cultural, ethnic, educational and economic backgrounds.
- Effectively coordinate, perform and complete multiple duties and assignments concurrently and in a timely manner.
- Meet the travel requirements of the position, if any.
- Physically perform the essential job functions of the classification.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY:** Master Degree in Psychology, Social Work or related field from an accredited college or university. Possess and maintain current license or associate license in Washington State as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Advanced Social Worker or Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and two years experience providing psychosocial/mental health services and/or crisis intervention services in a juvenile mental health setting required. License must be in good standing with no license restrictions or probationary status. United States citizenship and the ability to read and write the English language are required by RCW 41.14.100.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS AND/OR QUALIFICATIONS:** Ability to successfully complete a Pierce County Department background investigation, which may include a polygraph, is required prior to hire. A valid Washington State driver's license may be required when travel is required of the position.

#### **CONDITION OF CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT:**

- Employees with an associate license must obtain and maintain full licensure within the four year period as required by the Washington State law.
- Employees with an associate license must obtain and maintain agency affiliated counselor designation.