



CLASSIFICATION NO. 592  
Revised: 2/79, 2/06, 9/16; 4/24  
FLSA: Exempt  
EEO: 2

## **MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST 2**

### **CLASS CHARACTERISTICS**

Under general direction, to provide a variety of advanced level professional treatment and program services to individuals receiving mental and/or behavioral health services and their families; to participate as an effective member on a diagnostic team of mental health professionals which conducts evaluations, service/treatment planning, and placement for clients; to participate in one or more programs within the system to provide services; and to do other work as required.

### **DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS**

The Mental Health Specialist series is primarily oriented to performing professional level program services for clients in the local community. Services include: family, group, and individual therapy; diagnosis, treatment planning and evaluation, and coordinating treatment or other educational/consultative services with community agencies and programs.

Mental Health Specialist 2 is the advanced working level in the Mental Health Specialist series. Incumbents of this class are independent practitioners assigned a broad range of caseloads and duties involving sophisticated assessment and treatment procedures or consisting of severe mental and/or substance use disorders which require a high level of proficiency for effective treatment.

The Mental Health Specialist 2 differs from Mental Health Specialist 1 which is not a licensed Mental Health Professional. It further differs from the Mental Health Specialist 3 which acts as a lead worker to staff and provides clinical supervision to lower-level mental health professionals.

### **TYPICAL TASKS**

Duties may include but are not limited to:

1. Assesses individuals receiving services through intakes and other interviews to determine diagnosis and treatment needs; collects and evaluates critical information presented by client or other informants; examines history and current mental status.
2. Independently develops and implements service/treatment plans to meet specific requirements of clients; reviews treatment options with clients; prepares documents and findings in electronic health record system(s) in accordance with OAR and Division procedures; may review and approve treatment plans recommended by a Mental Health Specialist 1.
3. Provides planned individual, group and family psychotherapeutic services to clients and their families; enters and maintains documentation of services provided in electronic health record system(s) in accordance with OAR and Division procedures; implements Feedback Informed Treatment (FIT) in clinical work.
4. Works as a key member of a diagnostic team consisting of physicians, psychologists, and other mental and/or behavioral health professionals; makes referrals to other community

clinics, agencies, or care facilities; reviews client status, diagnosis, evaluations, service plans, treatment objectives and outcomes with diagnostic team, supervisors and other health care professionals as appropriate; utilizes FIT database to client outcomes and to guide clinical treatment; provides case-specific consultation to other staff members, providers, families and/or community agencies; provides clinical consultation to students and volunteers.

5. Works as a consultant or trainer to staff, other individuals, other agency personnel, interested community groups or staff at institutions; provides mental health and chemical dependency education and training to other staff, outside professionals, family members and the community; may represent the agency on internal or external committees as appropriate; may act as liaison for specific projects or contract services.
6. May act as a field instructor to oversee work of student interns or volunteers.
7. Prepares client evaluations, writes case summaries, reports, and letters and maintains case records; completes program-related assignments as required.
8. May provide crisis assessment and intervention to individuals receiving services and residents of Clackamas County and their families via telephone, in clinics or in the community as part of a 24/7 crisis response system.

### **REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**

Working knowledge of: Accepted principles and theories of human behavior, personality and development, and social interaction and development; techniques and procedures employed in diagnosing, evaluating, modifying and motivating human behavior; principles and techniques of group and individual therapy; principles and methods of community intervention; techniques of identifying and utilizing community resources; case management methods and techniques; rules, laws, regulations, and ethics governing the treatment of mental patients and clients; office equipment, including personal computers and software programs.

Skill to: Apply social and psychological theories of behavior and personality to the treatment of difficult mental and emotional disorders and handicaps; diagnose, evaluate and implement a treatment plan and monitor the client's progress toward established goals; analyze and evaluate social, psychological, and physical factors affecting clients and their families; treat clients and their families in order to enhance their social, psychological, and physical functioning; communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; make formal presentations to the public, community groups, and other mental health professionals; work effectively as a member of a professional mental health team to diagnose and treat clients; keep accurate and timely records; operate computer software and other office equipment; establish and maintain effective relationships.

### **WORKING CONDITIONS**

Incumbents work with varied socioeconomic groups, the mentally ill, the developmentally disabled, alcohol and substance abusing clients and their families.

May be required to participate in 24 hours/day crisis program services.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

Minimum qualifications are used as a guide for establishing the minimum experience, education, licensure, and/or certifications required for employment in the classification. The following minimum qualifications are established for this classification. Additional minimum qualifications

and special conditions may apply to a specific position within this classification and will be stated on the job announcement.

**Experience:** A minimum of two (2) years of related experience that would provide the required knowledge and skills to perform the responsibilities of this position.

**Licenses/Certifications:**

The following licensure/certifications are required at the time of hire.

- Licensure granted by the State of Oregon to practice as a Clinical Psychiatrist, Psychologist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Professional Counselor, or a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.
- Designation as a "Qualified Mental Health Professional" as established by the State of Oregon Mental Health Division.
- Some positions require eligibility to be certified as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) and/or 60 hours of addictions treatment training.
- Positions within Health Centers must possess and maintain a Basic Life Support (BLS) certificate.

**PRE-EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Must successfully pass a criminal history check which may include national or state fingerprint records check.

Must pass a pre-employment drug test.

Driving may be necessary for County business. For position(s) with occasional/incidental driving, incumbents must possess a valid driver's license. Accommodation requests for an acceptable alternative method of transportation will be reviewed on an individual basis in compliance with State and Federal legislation. For position(s) with regular driving, incumbent(s) must also possess and maintain an acceptable driving record throughout the course of employment.

**POST-EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Positions within the Behavioral Health Division's Mobile Crisis Response Team must obtain a CPR/First Aid certificate within six (6) months of hire.

Edited: 11/18