

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST

Definition:

Under the direction of a special education administrator, provides therapy services to students and families as part of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) service or other program defined by the Office; provides consultation and inservice to families and staff in the area of mental health.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

Maintains strict confidentiality while providing direct therapy services to students and families to support students' mental health needs; maintains regular contact with supervisors per licensing requirements; inservices and consults with staff about optimizing and supporting students' mental health.

Supervision Exercised and Received:

Works under the administrative and evaluative supervision of Principal or Assistant Principal.

Examples of Duties and Responsibilities:

Duties and responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Conducts pre and post assessment related to emotional health needs;
- Meets with parents to explain services and obtain consent;
- Provides direct therapy services to students and parents;
- Consults with teachers, school psychologists, administrators and other school staff regarding students' social-emotional needs related to education;
- Supports "wrap around" services (family and community based support services) for identified students and families with a variety of community agencies;
- Provides written reports of services within bounds of confidentiality regulations;
- Provide training for staff and/or parents in the area of mental health;
- Provides specific training and consultation to individual classroom teachers to support students;
- Expends Office funds to make purchases of assessment and therapeutic equipment required to perform duties;
- Acts as part of an IEP team including providing information about a student's current levels of performance and making suggestions for appropriate goals and objectives within the area of expertise;
- Communicates with other agencies including: Mental Health, Public Health, Regional Center and Social Services to help coordinate services;
- Performs related duties as assigned.

Employment Standards:

Knowledge of:

- Professional and ethical standards and practices;
- Appropriate therapeutic approaches for identified student groups;
- General understanding of child development;
- Needs of special education students;
- Community agencies and resources for referral;
- Safe work practices.

Ability to:

- Work with a wide range of socio-economic and ethnic groups;
- Work with a supervisor to determine best practices and therapeutic approaches;
- Communicate clearly in written and oral formats;
- Work as part of a team making decisions and recommendations for student services and support;
- Establish effective working relationships with staff, district personnel, other agencies and the public;

- Respond promptly to requests of internal and external clients; provide needed information, assistance, training, materials, and resources;
- Plan, organize and prioritize own work to meet deadlines and accomplish tasks within established timelines, including maintaining accurate records and files;
- Maintain orderly work environment and perform tasks in a prescribed and safe manner;
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with those contacted during performance of job duties;
- Maintain and improve professional skills and knowledge;
- Be flexible and receptive to change
- Understand and apply principles, techniques and procedures required for effective job performance.

Education and Experience:

Any combination of education and experience that would likely provide the knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

Education:

- Masters Degree from accredited college or university in the field of marriage and family counseling.
- MFT license per the State of California's requirements.
- Formal or informal education or training that ensures the ability to read and write at a level necessary for successful job performance.

Experience:

- Some experience with the special education population is highly desirable.

Physical Demands:

- Dexterity of hands and fingers to operate various equipment;
- Seeing to read a variety of materials;
- Hearing and speaking to exchange information and make presentations;
- Sitting or standing for extended periods of time;
- Walking, twisting, stooping, crouching, kneeling, bending over, grasping, reaching overhead, pushing, pulling and moving, lifting and/or carrying 0-50 pounds to waist height.

Working Environment:

- Office and school environment; and
- May require driving a vehicle to conduct work

Other Requirements:

- Must be fingerprinted and a satisfactory Department of Justice records check must be received by SCOE, prior to employment.
- TB testing will be required upon employment.
- Must pass a pre-employment physical (if applicable).
- Must have normal vision, corrected or uncorrected.
- May be required to obtain first aid and CPR certificates within the first 6-12 months of employment.
- May be required to drive with or without students; some positions may require a current California driver license, proof of insurance, and possible participation in the DMV Pull Notice Program once employed.