

**MENDOCINO COUNTY GOVERNMENT
CLASS SPECIFICATION**

CLASS TITLE: SUPERVISING FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGIST
DEPARTMENT: MENTAL HEALTH
REPORTS TO: ADULT SYSTEMS OF CARE MANAGER

CLASS CODE: 4022
Bargaining Unit: Management
FLSA Status: E
DATE: 7/02

JOB SUMMARY:

Under general direction, supervises a staff including other lower level clinicians, plans, implements and coordinates specialized therapist services to the mentally disordered offender population in the criminal justice system as part of the Conditional Release Program and interacts with and provides competency assessments and reports as required by the courts.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

The Supervising Forensic Psychologist is similar in level to the Senior Mental Health Clinician and is a working supervisor classification. It is distinguished from the classification of Forensic Mental Health Clinician by its supervisory duties. Supervisory duties, which include the evaluation of staff members, also distinguish it from the Mental Health Clinician I and II. The Senior Mental Health Clinician, Mental Health Clinician II and Supervising Forensic Psychologist provide clinical supervision to lower level clinicians that are seeking their licenses to practice in the State of California. However, the Supervising Forensic Psychologist's consistent area of specialization is forensic psychology while the Mental Health Clinician class series area of specialization is more generalized.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS: *(Not all incumbents perform all the examples listed, nor do the examples cover all the duties that may be performed.)*

Carries out supervisory responsibility in accordance with policies, procedures and applicable laws including: interviewing, hiring and training, planning, assigning and directing work; appraising performance; rewarding and disciplining employees; addressing complaints and resolving problems.

Responsible for planning, implementing and coordinating specialized therapist services to the mentally disordered offender population in the criminal justice system.

Plans, organizes and supervises the work of others. Selects and trains staff.

Responsible to provide psychological services to mentally disordered offenders. Participates in diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, evaluation and follow-up of patients or clients. Evaluates and diagnoses patient psychosocial dysfunction and develops treatment plans. Performs assessment, referral, counseling, case documentation and management, home visits. Provides group therapy for penal code clients and other treatment services. Supervises and provides direct clinical services in the jails and the Conditional Release Program.

Coordinates program activities and client needs, with the Sheriff's Department, Probation Department, Courts, Department of Corrections, State hospitals and with other departments and programs treating the mentally ill offender.

Selects and administers personality, intelligence, and other clinical tests and interprets their results; prepares psychological case reports. Performs competency assessments and prepares reports as required for the Courts. Prepares court records, and may also testify in court.

Participates in the evaluation of problems presented, recommendation of services needed, and development/implementation of treatment plans. Provides casework review and therapy for individual clients and/or groups, including therapy for clients within family groups. Confers with other staff members, psychiatrists, community agencies, courts, school officials, probation officers, and others to exchange information and implement treatment plans.

Obtains housing, employment, education and medical services to clients.

Coordinate services with the Board of Prison Terms regarding release, placement, supervision and treatment of Mentally Disordered Offenders. Makes periodic visits to the forensic state hospitals to participate in the treatment/discharge planning for Mendocino/Lake County penal code clients, and meet with the hospitalized clients. Responds to crisis calls and initiates 5150 evaluations. Evaluates to determine and arrange the involuntary detention of penal code clients per Penal Code Section 1610.

Searches for weapons, drugs, alcohol and other contraband; supervise urine testing for alcohol and drug screening.

Writes policies and procedures.

Provides clinical supervision, trains and directs lower level professionals and other staff members.

Performs other related duties as assigned.

MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT USED:

General Office Equipment

Computer

Urine Collection Supplies

Vehicle

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

PhD. In Clinical Psychology or Doctor of Psychology.

Licenses and Certifications: Must possess a valid California Driver's License. Meet the requirements as stipulated by the California Department of Mental Health to work as a therapist in the Conditional Release Program and for appointment as the Community Program Director pursuant to the California Penal Code.

Must possess a current California License as a Psychologist as granted by the California State Board of Psychology OR current license as a Clinical Psychologist in another state and eligible for a waiver to work in public Mental Health.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Knowledge of:

Principles and practices of effective supervision and training.

Administration of staff and activities.

Judicial commitments including statutory and case law foundation for the commitment court process and the legal role, authority and responsibility of CONREP.

Principles, practices and methods of counseling and psychotherapy.

Methods of client monitoring and supervision, use of authority, and negotiating treatment contracts.

Basic current theories on psychotherapy and treatment strategies.

Techniques and methods to ensure continuity of care from in-patient hospitalization to community out-patient status.

Interpretation of psychological assessment instruments such as MMP1-2, Rorschach, etc.

Urine collection methods.

Uses and effects of psycho tropic medications.

Abuses and effects of illegal drugs and alcohol.

Relapse prevention and recovery models including harm reduction.

Ability to:

Select and motivate staff, plan, organize, assign, direct, review, evaluate the work of staff and provide for their training and professional development.

Use tact, discretion, initiative and independent judgment within established guidelines.

Prepare clear and concise reports, correspondence and other written materials.

Document issues for court reports and making accurate notes in clinical records.

Apply logical thinking to solve problems or accomplish tasks; to understand, interpret and communicate compliance policies, procedures and protocols.

Apply effective treatment approaches to the problems of mentally disordered offender

Identify and focus on forensic behavioral goals that can be measures and documented.

Read, analyze and interpret professional periodicals and journals, technical procedures and government regulations.

Define problems, collect data, establish facts and draw valid conclusions.

Physical requirements:

While performing the essential functions of this job the employee is regularly required to sit, use hands to finger, handle, or feel, and speak and hear; and use sound perception and discrimination.

While performing the essential functions of this job the employee is frequently required to lift and/or move up to 10 pounds and is occasionally required to apply a physical exertion in restraining overactive or hostile clients and/or move up to 30 pounds.

Working Conditions:

Work is performed in a normal office environment with little exposure to outdoor temperatures or dirt and dust.

The incumbent's working conditions are typically moderately loud.

This class specification should not be interpreted as all-inclusive. It is intended to identify the essential functions and requirements of this job. Incumbents may be requested to perform job-related responsibilities and tasks other than those stated in this specification. Any essential function or requirement of this class will be evaluated as necessary should an incumbent/applicant be unable to perform the function or requirement due to a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodation for the specific disability will be made for the incumbent/applicant when possible.