

DESCRIPTION: Under general supervision of the Youth Counselor Supervisor, manages group and individual case programming for youth housed in a Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Center. Participates in the development of planning for the youth's overall programming during placement. Depending on treatment modality used, may serve as a youth treatment group leader for a given number of youth groups; performs related work as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: This is the first classification level of the Youth Counselor class series. Positions in this class perform treatment planning, treatment coordination and counseling for youth in a Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Center at the full-performance level. Positions are not assigned lead worker or supervisory duties.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (A position may not be assigned all the duties listed, nor do these examples include all the duties that may be assigned.)

Conducts interviews with the youth to collect data for classification studies. Maintains all progress reports and classification information on assigned youth caseloads. May coordinate orientation of new youth.

Counsels with an assigned caseload, both in a group setting or on an individual basis within the treatment modality.

Serves as the key facilitator of group meetings held with the youth groups. Coordinates and monitors the conduct of those meetings.

Attends and participates in support team meetings and other staff and committee meetings to review progress in the development of treatment plans.

May serve as liaison between school staff and Unit staff to further promote continuity of handling the programming of youth and youth groups.

Participates in the basic and vocational education programs including visits to the various classrooms, monitoring of classroom assignments and in the motivation of youth.

Communicates with parents, legal professionals, Juvenile Service Officers and other social and state agencies. Arrange for tours and visits of parents, families and others when required.

Maintains security and control within the institution as required.

Participates in parole discharge planning. Makes recommendations regarding furloughs and special privileges. Supervises group outings and recreational activities as required.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED: (These may be acquired on the job and are needed to perform the work assigned.)

Knowledge of: the principles and practices of treatment and guidance of rehabilitating delinquent youth; the principles of individual and group interaction techniques; crisis intervention techniques and procedures; good counseling techniques as they relate to facility treatment modality; agency and facility policies, procedures, rules and regulations; agency forms and communication practices; current practices in working with youth assigned to a Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Center.

Ability to: communicate effectively both in writing and orally with a wide range of persons, including youth, staff, peers, administrators, parents and other professionals; exercise maturity, objectivity and sound judgment; observe and understand human behavior; operate within established policies and procedures.

ENTRY KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED: (Applicants will be screened for possession of these through written, oral and/or performance examinations or other means of evaluations.)

Knowledge of: basic counseling techniques and procedures; programs and opportunities open to youth who have been assigned to a Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Center; basic crisis intervention techniques; the principles of individual and group interaction.

Ability to: organize and manage own work flow; interact with youth from a variety of socio/economic, cultural and educational backgrounds; communicate effectively both orally and in writing with a wide range of people in varying situations; observe and understand human behavior; apply problem solving techniques to a variety of different circumstances.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: (Applicants will be screened for possession of these qualifications. Applicants who need accommodation in the selection process should request this in advance.)

[Provisional Minimum Qualifications statements]

Bachelor's degree in criminal justice, behavioral sciences, human services, or related field. Experience in child or youth care, teaching, foster care, delinquency prevention, juvenile court systems, community work related to children and youth, behavioral health systems, patient care, nursing or other areas involving contact or interaction with youth or families, may substitute for the educational requirement on a year for year basis.