

BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE PRACTITIONER

KIND OF WORK

Clinical Leadership in a position with regional or statewide impact, and/or complex multi-disability focus.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

Under administrative direction, provides technical consultation and direction to a broad spectrum of other clinicians, including medical specialists, psychologists, nurses, therapists and community health care providers in a specialized field of clinical psychology such as Adolescent Psychology, Behavioral Psychology, Neuro-Psychology or Forensics. Designs, develops, implements and evaluates psycho-social based treatment programs for clinically complex clients, including those with multiple diagnoses, conflicting diagnoses and unidentified disabilities. Testifies in court proceedings as an expert witness. Performs related work as required.

The Behavioral Medicine Practitioner provides specialized consultation to treatment teams in multiple programs serving a specific disability group (e.g. Mental Illness, Chemical Dependency, DD, etc.) at multiple facilities within a geographic region of service. It designs specialized treatment programs and directs the implementation of these strategies in multiple facilities within a region. It is also responsible for directing outcome analysis for programs within the specialty area, developing and delivering training in specialized assessment or treatment strategies for medical staff; directing and implementing quality improvement strategies and developing and monitoring utilization management.

The level of technical knowledge required for this position is typically acquired through additional specialized experience and educational training beyond that required for a Ph.D. in Psychology. Specialized certification is preferable.

This class differs from the Psychologist class series assigned to the 214 professional unit because it requires the application of specialized expertise to the development and design of innovative clinical programs and strategies to treat clinically complex and/or treatment resistant populations. As recognized medical professionals, incumbents in this class will join the medical doctors (and, eventually, the nurse practitioners) in a Public Group Practice (PGP) professional organization.

This class differs from the higher level Behavioral Medicine Practitioner Senior in breadth and scope. The Senior will have a statewide, system-wide focus, rather than a regional focus; will provide specialty consultation across multiple disability groups rather than a single disability group; and is focused on network wide design and planning of specialty services, rather than on the delivery and assessment of services provided.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)

Consults with and trains professional staff in specialized multi-modal (biological, psychological, social) assessment techniques, diagnosis, and treatment strategies to provide expertise and improve treatment outcomes.

Evaluates clients' intellectual, neuro-psychological, and mental status by using advanced specialized assessment procedures such as administering, scoring and interpreting neuro-psychological test battery and integrating these findings with other test results, clients' history and clinical observations.

Provides technical consultation to treatment teams in the design and development of treatment plans and specific intervention, treatment and support techniques to meet unique needs of clients with multiple diagnoses.

Reviews client records to identify treatment resistant clients and recommends modifications to treatment plans.

As a master clinician, assesses and treats most complex cases so that client reaches an optimal level of functioning by applying advanced techniques and principles of psychotherapy and behavior management.

Provides ongoing consultation to community providers about follow-up services for discharged clients to ensure placement success by assessing behavioral problems and advising community providers on appropriate solutions.

Examines clients for forensic and civil commitment legal determinations, issues appropriate emergency hold orders and health officer hold orders, and testifies on the psychological status of clients at court hearings to provide relevant, scientifically-based information for judicial decisions.

Designs and evaluates service delivery systems for treatment programs to insure that psychological services are comprehensive and effective by assessing service needs, researching current trends in treatment practices, and new treatment methods and approaches, and, where appropriate, incorporating these into practical treatment systems.

Directs quality improvement and risk management programs by analyzing outcome data and developing and modifying treatment process.

Develops internship programs for graduate students in psychology by offering training opportunities to local universities and colleges, establishing training guidelines for students, and evaluating students' clinical performance.

Represents Psychological Services on system-wide committees and task forces and assists with the implementation of the SOS strategic plan.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

Specialized psychological assessment and treatment services of one or more client groups sufficient to guide the efforts of system-wide professional staff of all disciplines and community providers in the development of effective, individualized services for one or more target client groups.

Standards, policies, laws and rules relating to the delivery of psychological services to effectively guide others in the development of effective treatment services.

Other health professions and treatment methods sufficient to permit the design of treatment services that can make best use of the skills of all clinical disciplines.

Psychological and research methodology sufficient to guide other psychologists in locating informational resources and in interpreting research results.

Multi-modal assessment methods sufficient to evaluate clients' psychological status and to guide others in making assessments in complex cases involving multiple diagnoses.

Crisis intervention principles sufficient to assist the treatment delivery system in developing effective responses to clients.

Comprehensive knowledge of ethical and legal standards of psychologists.

Ability to:

Work with other system-wide management staff, professionals, psychologists, facility department heads, program/service directors, program evaluation staff and community providers, to design and implement effective, integrated treatment services.

Analyze and interpret research and issue analysis sufficient to make program decisions and to guide others in the application of improved treatment methods.

Communicate effectively, orally and in writing, so that the treatment information can be documented, provided to clients and management, and used to develop improved services.

LEGAL/LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

Licensed Psychologist, Doctoral Level.

Eligibility for specialized certification

Est.: 12/02

Rev.:

Ckd.:

T.C.:

Former Title(s):