

IMPERIAL COUNTY

CLASS TITLE: MENTAL HEALTH WORKER I

BASIC FUNCTION:

Under the direction of an assigned supervisor, assist professional staff members engaged in planning, developing and evaluating mental health services for individuals and groups; transport mental health patients to and from clinics and out-patient treatment programs.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Mental Health Worker I incumbents assist and participate in therapeutic activities at an assigned mental health program and operate under close supervision. Mental Health Worker II assists and participates in therapeutic activities at an assigned mental health program and operates with a moderate degree of independence. Mental Health Worker III is the advanced level classification in the series. Incumbents assist and participate in activities at an assigned mental health program and operate with a high degree of independence.

REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:

Operate a motor vehicle to transport mental health patients to and from out-patient treatment programs and appointments.

Assist professional staff in conducting mental health education programs for the community.

Assist in developing lines of communication between the County Mental Health program and the community by explaining mental health programs to residents and conveying community cultural patterns and attitudes to professional staff.

Learn principles and techniques of individual and group counseling.

Conduct individual and group counseling sessions with small groups under close supervision of professional staff.

Prepare reports and correspondence and maintain records.

Perform related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:

KNOWLEDGE OF:

Community organizations and resources.
Oral and written communication skills.
Basic record-keeping techniques.
County locations and geographical areas.
Proper operations of a motor vehicle.

ABILITY TO:

Transport mental health patients to and from treatment facilities in the County.
Assist professional staff in providing counseling and therapy to patients.
Observe legal and defensive driving practices.
Learn department and program objectives and goals.

Work cooperatively with others.
Understand and follow oral and written directions.
Work cooperatively with others.
Understand and follow oral and written directions.
Work confidentially with discretion.
Maintain records and prepare reports.
Meet schedules and time lines.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

High school diploma or GED and sufficient training and experience to demonstrate the knowledge and abilities listed above.

LICENSES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Valid California driver's license.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

Indoor and outdoor environment; subject to shift work; position may require driving a vehicle to conduct work.

Physical abilities required include seeing, speaking and hearing to conduct clinical interviews and assessments.

Incumbents may be exposed to abusive and potentially dangerous behavior from mentally unstable individuals.