

SONORA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Job Description

SCHOOL SITE THERAPIST/COUNSELOR

DEFINITION

Under the direction of Sonora High School Principal or designee, the Behavioral Health Clinician will provide supportive and direct services to students with behaviors that interfere with access to their Individual Education Program (IEP). While school sites are expected to pursue lower levels of mental health intervention, such as school counseling, the Behavior Health Clinician addresses behaviors that put the student at risk for placement in a more restricted educational setting, higher levels of mental health care and/or out of home placement.

The Behavioral Health Clinician will provide Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) including counseling, assessment, evaluation, goal setting, and case management for students with special needs and their families; will provide consultation and training to teachers, paraprofessionals and parents; and attend IEP meetings where ERMHS are to be discussed. Mental health services may be provided at school sites and, on occasion, in student homes or other community settings.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITY

- Provide direct mental health services that include: assessment; consultation; evaluation; treatment plan development; treatment coordination; individual/group therapy, and case management for all students.
- Conduct appropriate assessment/evaluation; maintain confidential treatment records; complete and submit written evaluation and program reports.
- Act as a liaison among clients, families, school personnel and community agencies; plan and conduct training and workshops for staff and parents, including positive behavior supports and implementation of behavioral plans.
- Complete and submit appropriate forms, including MediCal and/or MAA billing forms.
- Support the delivery of student mental health services by participating on the Student Success and Student Attendance Review Team at the school to address the behavioral, and attendance needs of students.
- Provide, individual, group and mental health counseling to students; confer as needed with parents, teacher and others regarding student mental health needs including school wide positive behavior plans.
- Develop behavior management and interventions/plans as part of a team.
- Work with school site personnel and collaboratively develop a plan to increase a positive school climate that will foster student achievement.
- Consult with parents regarding the development of behavioral interventions for students including recommendations for home support of school goals.
- Collaborate with appropriate site and district staff to develop and present parent workshops.
- Refer students to social service and governmental agencies, support groups and other community resources as appropriate; consult with law enforcement agencies regarding students as necessary.
- Provide resources and coordinate services for identified students and families to increase school capacity in addressing mental health concerns.

2 | School Site Therapist/Counselor

- Facilitate collaboration between school sites and community agencies to meet mental health needs of students and families.
- Attend and/or facilitate meetings, workshops and professional development.
- Collaborate with school site on developing increased awareness of health related policies, and identification of crisis response team.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Master's Degree in a job-related area.
- Licensed or license eligible in the state of California as Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT), Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) or Licensed Educational Psychologist (LEP).
- Job related experience within a specialized field with increasing levels of responsibility preferred, or any combination of training, experience and/or education equivalent to a Master's degree in psychology, mental health counseling, or social work.
- Valid and appropriate California's driver's license.

Knowledge of:

- Psychological and social aspects and characteristics of children with physical disabilities, emotional and social disturbances.
- Problems, needs, and attitudes of individuals with physical disabilities, emotional, and social disturbances.
- Principles and methods of counseling and the accepted techniques for assessing psychosocial behavior.
- Human behavior and development of subgroups with special needs.
- Pertinent law and regulations regarding health and social service programs and public and Special and/or Alternative Education.
- Laws and regulations as they pertain to clients' legal rights.
- Pharmacology of medications and drug treatment.
- Normal growth and development of children.
- Educational and developmental needs of children with specific disabilities.
- Applicable treatment modalities and theory, including Functional Behavior Analysis
- Oral and written communication skills.

Skills and Abilities:

- Make quick and accurate clinical assessments of mental and behavioral conditions.
- Perform threat assessment and crisis intervention.
- Conduct parent and staff training.
- Demonstrate positive working relationship with students, staff, parents and other professionals.
- Work with diverse groups of students in various socioeconomic and multi-cultural areas.
- Work in teams with other mental health providers to support positive student growth.
- Train and teach effective behavioral health interventions and the primary behavioral health model.
- Provide services to students, parents, and school staff for the purposes of providing a positive, safe learning atmosphere.
- Promote student adjustment to schools and utilization of district community services.
- Exercise balanced judgement in evaluating situations and making decisions, and handle

3 | School Site Therapist/Counselor

difficult or confrontational situations in a calm, consistent and equitable manner.

- Establish workload priorities and meet guidelines.
- Communicate effectively, orally, and in writing.
- Plan and organize workload.
- Analyze situations accurately and adopt an effective course of action.
- Work independently with little direction.
- Participate in the development of school and district programs.
- Maintain professional competence through in-service education activities provided by the District, County, or other professional organizations.

Sonora Union High School District is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and reasonable accommodations are made under the American with Disabilities Act as required by law.

Board Approval: April 13, 2021