

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**JOB TITLE:** Children's Assessment Center Mental Health Therapist

**REPORTS TO:** STAT Program Director

### **PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:**

The WestCoast Children's Clinic's STAT program is an innovative, model program that provides mental health Screening, Stabilization and Transition (STAT) services to children as they enter the foster care system in Alameda County. STAT clinicians complete a mental health screening and informal assessment of every child who arrives at the Assessment Center, providing both individual and milieu-based therapeutic interventions. In addition, clinicians provide community-based transition services (usually combining individual sessions and collateral contacts) to help children adjust to placement in foster or group homes. The STAT program serves children and young adults, ranging in age from just a few days up to their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. The program is committed to helping them cope with the traumas of abuse and neglect while working to minimize the impact of being separated from their family, home, and community. In addition, STAT clinicians may carry a small caseload of clients who experience chronic placement instability for whom treatment could extend up to a year.

The STAT Clinician is legally responsible for adherence to all state provider billing and documentation requirements, and works with the program leadership to identify policy, procedure and training needs.

### **ESSENTIAL JOB DUTIES:**

- Provides screening, assessment and therapeutic interventions as children enter into or change placement within the child welfare system. Consults with county social workers and makes recommendations regarding mental health needs of clients.
- Provides short-term therapeutic interventions to clients as well as collateral support and guidance to foster parents, relatives and group home staff in order to facilitate children's transition to and stabilization in their placements.
- Provides individual and family therapy, caregiver guidance, collateral contacts and case management to children with chronic placement instability for a period of 3-12 months. May work with a case manager as part of a team to best serve youth.
- Provides services at WCC program sites and in the community (youth's homes, communities, other agencies, and schools); Travel is required up to 90 miles one way.
- Maintains clinical caseload minimum; meets billable hours & goals as set by the agency.
- Collaborates with other professionals within WCC and partnering agencies to ensure the highest quality of service to WCC clients.
- Makes collateral contacts on behalf of clients as needed.
- Complies with WCC policies, procedures, and deadlines related to billing, record keeping, and documentation.
- Participates in agency and program meetings and professional development trainings as required, including: Agency and program- specific meetings (3 hours/week), Individual Clinical Supervision/consultation (1 hour/week), Clinical Case Conference (2 hours/week).

## **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- MA or doctoral degree in clinical or counseling psychology, marriage and family therapy, or social work. Master's level candidates must be currently registered with the California Board of Behavioral Sciences.
- Must have 1-2 years of post-graduate experience with children/youth.
- Prior residential or milieu experience preferred.
- Current California mental health license preferred. (Based on our funding sources, California Department of Mental Health requires all unlicensed psychologists to apply for a professional licensing waiver or show proof of a valid waiver prior to hire date)
- Proven experience providing individual psychotherapy, parent support, and family therapy to children, adolescents and their families, particularly where children are or have been in foster care.
- Demonstrated experience working with diverse communities
- CPR, First Aid, and Bloodborne Pathogens certification is required.
- Knowledge of de-escalation techniques is preferred.
- Clean CA DMV record and current car insurance and car; travel is required.
- Demonstrated clinical experience with foster care, DSS, and community mental health.

## **COMPETENCIES (skills, abilities, knowledge):**

- Clinical service skill – assessment/evaluation, clinical skills, crisis intervention, ability to use supervision effectively, ethical and legal responsibilities, high quality clinical documentation.
- Knowledge of attachment theory, brief psychotherapy modalities, early childhood and adolescent development, trauma, and principles of milieu therapy.
- Cultural competence - knowledge of issues of race, class, and ethnicity.
- Ability to work effectively with clients who have complex, multiple diagnosis histories
- Efficiency and time management - ability to be well-organized and complete timely documentation.
- Excellent interpersonal, communication and writing skills.
- Knowledge of or ability to learn Medi-Cal reimbursement procedures and billing.
- Collaboration and team functioning - able to work independently and collaboratively as part of a multidisciplinary team.
- Prior knowledge and experience with EHR such as Welligent, preferred.
- Professional conduct.

## **PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

All requirements are subject to possible modification to reasonably accommodate individuals with a disability. Areas are wheelchair accessible.

- Ability to move about as needed throughout the day, including lifting and carrying infants and small children, as well as engaging in play activities.
- Individuals in this position engage in activities such as standing, walking, sitting, getting on the floor to play, kneeling, crawling, etc.
- Requires ability to be physically active up to 9 hours per day.
- Ability to use computer workstation, including keyboard and visual display terminal, for extended periods of time, including finger, hand, and wrist dexterity.
- Ability to complete tasks in an environment where interruptions are the norm and background noise is present.

- Ability to move throughout buildings and between buildings, including stairs or elevator.

**COMPENSATION:**

Salary range for this position is \$50,000 - \$60,000 annually depending on experience and licensure type. Includes competitive compensation and benefits package, 403(b) and incentive compensation plans.

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The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by the person assigned to this position. Essential job functions are intended to describe those functions that are primary to the performance of this job. Other job duties include those that are considered secondary to the overall purpose of this position.

This position description does not state or imply that the above are the only duties and responsibilities assigned to this position. Employees holding this position will be required to perform any other job-related duties as requested. WestCoast Children's Clinic reserves the right to revise job descriptions or work hours as required.

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Updated 5.12.16