

## **CHEMICAL DEPENDENCE COUNSELOR**

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** These duties involve responsibility for providing guidance and counseling to enable alcohol/substance abusers to adjust to normal community life. The work is carried out under the general supervision of the Chemical Dependence Services Program Coordinator. Considerable latitude is permitted for the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out assignments in accordance with established policies and procedures. The incumbent does related work as required.

### **TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

- Screens new clients for intake into the chemical dependence program;
- Provides counseling and crisis intervention services to alcohol/substance abusers and their families;
- Assists the Chemical Dependence Services Program Coordinator and Director of Community Services in developing and carrying out programs for alcohol/substance abuse counseling, crisis intervention, alcohol/substance education and drinking driver rehabilitation;
- Works with courts and magistrates in determining appropriate disposition of cases involving alcoholism and alcohol/substance abuse;
- Maintains records of interviews and counseling sessions with clients and their families;
- Makes oral and written reports as required.

**FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:** Good knowledge of the basic principles, practices and techniques used in alcohol/substance abuse counseling and skill in their application; good knowledge of human behavior, socio-economic programs and developments as they relate to alcohol/substance abuse; good knowledge of group and individual counseling methods and procedures; working knowledge of the basic theories of chemical dependency and its treatment; working knowledge of the major providers of services to alcohol/substance abusers and/or their families; ability to speak before groups about the program; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

- EITHER:** (A) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Master=s Degree in psychology, social work, rehabilitation counseling or a related field;
- OR** (B) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor=s Degree in one of field described in (A) above and one (1) year of experience in group or individual counseling related to chemical dependence problems;

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**OR** (C) Licensure and current registration to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse in New York State and two (2) years of experience as described in (B) above;

**OR** (D) An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (A), (B), and (C) above.

**NOTE:** Preference in appointment may be given to candidates possessing current New York State alcohol and substance abuse counseling credentials (CASAC).