

## **DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **CLASS TITLE: MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST**

#### **BASIC FUNCTION:**

Under the direction of the Director of Student Services, the Mental Health Therapist participates as part of the school team for the purpose of developing supports for students with mental health needs and /or determining eligibility for service; assessing needs; providing therapy and/or case management to students who require tier 3 supports due to mental health concerns. The Mental Health Therapist supports students with developing and mastering educationally related social-emotional skills with peers and adults; and works with staff and parents on issues related to the educational and emotional success of students.

#### **REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:**

- Provides direct clinical services as a licensed qualified mental health professional to students exhibiting significant mental health needs.
- Provides case management services to students diagnosed with mental health needs.
- Performs individual assessments, case history information to determine additional mental health needs of students.
- Provides counselling, crisis intervention and treatment interventions for students, their families and each student's school site.
- Collaborates with site teams to ensure that mental health services successfully assist students in achieving educational success.
- Facilitates and/or participates in group and individual meetings, including Student Study Team, 504, and Individual Education Program (IEP) meetings.
- Assists in monitoring and follow-up of "at-risk" students for the purpose of enhancing student success in school.
- Assists the District in developing safe and positive learning environments.
- Assists school sites with "at-risk" student referral protocols for the purpose of developing plans or services and/or making recommendations.
- Assists site administrators in planning and modifying student support services for identified "at-risk" students.
- Communicates with parents, teachers, administrators, and other professional staff to assist them in the understanding and educational planning for students who demonstrate early warning signs of being or becoming "at-risk" for mental health concerns and school failure.
- Works cooperatively with school psychologists and IEP teams at sites to provide services to students with disabilities who require counseling and other related services as specified in their IEP.
- Identifies resources in the community and makes appropriate referrals for the purpose of providing support to students and families.
- Keeps informed on the content and status of current legislation as it relates to "at-risk" students and student and family support service programs.
- Provides classroom demonstrations on strategies (i.e. self-esteem, social skills, responsibility, coping, making wise choices, respecting others, etc.) for the purpose of ensuring successful participation in the academic program.

- Provides parent education and staff in-service training related to mental health needs.
- Active Participant in the District Wellness Committee
- Supervises district interns as specified in university MOUs
- Support students on IEP that are receiving extended school year services in the area of mental health
- Perform other work-related duties as assigned.

## **KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:**

### **KNOWLEDGE OF:**

- Current professional behavior management techniques and practices in Special Education environments and technical aspects of the field of specialty
- Counseling practices for individuals, groups, and families.
- Processes for effective casework practice
- Laws relevant to school social work, ethical issues, and professional issues and standards.
- Child development, psychopathology, and social and environmental conditioning
- Effective and excellent communication, using English in verbal and written form, use correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- Leadership and team-building skills, strong organizational skills, high self-motivation, and aptitude for diversification

### **ABILITY TO:**

- Work effectively as part of a team in a collaborative manner
- Understand and interpret complex data and abstract concepts
- Conduct research necessary to develop behavior treatment plans
- Demonstrate positive working relationships with students, staff, and parents.
- Utilize Crisis Prevention Intervention or similar methodology for management and behavior intervention
- Operate computers, assigned software, and telephones.
- Work effectively with severely learning/emotionally disabled adolescents and children
- Work with diverse groups of students in varied socioeconomic and multicultural areas
- Establish workload priorities and meet timelines
- Lift and move at least 40 pounds
- Understand and carry out oral and written instructions
- Plan and organize work
- Analyze situations accurately and adopt an effective course of action
- Work independently with little direction.
- Maintain confidentiality of student records
- Meet schedules and deadlines
- Read/interpret/apply rules, regulations, policies
- Rapidly learn methods and materials used in a variety of situations
- Willingness to travel locally at times.

**EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:**

Any combination of training, experience, and/or education equivalent to master's degree in psychology, social work, or mental health counseling and or social work; and two years of experience with children and adolescents in a mental health setting.

**LICENSES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

Possession of a valid license issued by the State of California as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT), or Licensed Clinical Psychologist.

Possession of a valid California driver's license and availability of private transportation (mileage expense allowance provided).

**WORKING CONDITIONS:**

**ENVIRONMENT:**

- Indoor classroom and school environment.

**PHYSICAL DEMANDS:**

- Driving a vehicle to conduct work.
- Hearing and speaking to exchange information in person and on the telephone; Seeing to perform assigned duties;
- Sitting or standing for extended periods of time;
- Dexterity of hands and fingers to operate a computer keyboard and other office equipment
- Kneeling, bending at the waist, and reaching overhead, above the shoulders, and horizontally, to retrieve and store files and supplies
- Lifting light objects

**TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT:**

Criminal Justice Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation Fingerprint Clearance, Physical and TB Clearance. Fingerprints and physical will be at district expense and must be obtained at district contracted facility.

**SALARY:**

Placement on the Classified Salary Schedule on Range 48.