

JUVENILE COURT COUNSELOR

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

Work in this class involves providing case management services, counseling, and supervision of adjudicated undisciplined or delinquent juveniles, to assure compliance with court-ordered dispositions. Work involves: assessing the juvenile's and family needs to develop and implement plans for treatment and compliance with court orders; monitoring juvenile and family progress through home, residential placement or Youth Development Center/Detention Center, office, and school visits. Work also involves contact with other human service agencies providing services to the family and the provision of transitional and post-release supervision and support services to facilitate community re-entry and continuing treatment needs. Employees may also be responsible for: evaluating petitions and complaints against juveniles to determine whether to divert the complaint and close; divert the complaint with a contract or plan, and monitor compliance with the contract/plan; or to initiate court action; conducting in-depth risk and needs assessments, and family social histories to develop treatment and sanction recommendations for disposition; serving as an Officer of the Court to issue and serve court orders and documents; and to restrain and secure physical custody of juveniles. Employees participate in an on-call rotation to provide after-hours response for emergency needs of juveniles; make decisions regarding the secure and non-secure custody of juveniles, and arrange for, or provide, transportation to the designated facility; participate in and lead, interagency, multidisciplinary planning and team meetings; and maintain extensive court records and documentation in a statewide online juvenile database.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES PERFORMED

Employees provide court-ordered supervision, counseling, and supportive services to adjudicated juveniles which involves assessment of individual needs and family dynamics to plan, develop, and implement supervision and treatment plans designed to ensure compliance with dispositions and effect behavioral change. Counseling is provided on an individual and family basis to address a variety of needs and dysfunctions that contributed to the juvenile's adjudicated status.

Employees refer juveniles and family members to appropriate programs and services to address mental health, psychological, substance abuse, or other needs, and then coordinate these services through the use of interagency team planning. Employees also provide intake services and decisions for all juveniles referred by law enforcement, parents, schools and all other referral sources.

Employees conduct assessments of juvenile needs and family dynamics, and in selecting treatment and counseling approaches. Counseling services provided for each case may involve several family members in addition to the juvenile and span a range of moderately complex needs.

RECRUITMENT STANDARDS

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Considerable knowledge of adolescent development, and family, group, and juvenile delinquency dynamics and intervention techniques.

Thorough knowledge of a wide range of behavioral, socioeconomic, and psychosocial problems and their treatment.

Knowledge of juvenile laws, statutory guidelines, procedures, and requirements, and social agencies and community resources relevant to the program and client needs.

Skill in establishing rapport with juveniles and families and in assessing juvenile/family strengths and dysfunctions, and an understanding of the psychosocial, behavioral, and psychological aspects that contribute to these issues.

Skilled in crisis intervention and the application of counseling techniques and principles.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with juveniles and families, as well as civic, legal, and social organizations, school and Court personnel.

Ability to impartially analyze information, communicate clearly and concisely, and plan and execute work to effectively manage workload.

Minimum Education and Experience Requirements

Bachelor's degree in a human services field such as social work, psychology, counseling, or criminal justice from an appropriately accredited institution and two years of experience in counseling or a human services field preferably with the client population; or a Master's degree in a human services field from an appropriately accredited institution and one year of experience in counseling or a human services field; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Minimum Education and Experience Requirements for Trainee Appointment

Bachelor's degree in a human services field such as social work, psychology, counseling, or criminal justice from an appropriately accredited institution.

Necessary Special Qualifications

Applicants for positions designated as Juvenile Justice Officers are subject to and must meet the hiring and training standards established by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, as defined in Title 12, Chapter 9 of the NC Administrative Code, by the statutory authority of GS 17C.

Special Note

This is a generalized representation of positions in this class and is not intended to identify essential functions per ADA. Examples of work are primarily essential functions of the majority of positions in this class, but may not be applicable to all positions.