

Jurisdictional Class: Competitive  
Adopted: October 31, 1989  
Revised: July 30, 2010

**SENIOR MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN**

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** This position involves responsibility for the performance of professional mental health activities at an advanced level in the process of helping individuals with social, emotional, and related difficulties associated with their mental illness or disability. Since the employee is expected to function with a high degree of clinical independence and judgment, the incumbent assumes a leadership role in the conduct of assessments, diagnosis, and treatment of clients, as well as provision of consultation and educational activities to staff members of the mental health program and personnel of various other county agencies. This position differs from that of Staff Social Worker, Staff Psychiatric Nurse, or Staff Psychologist (Master's level) positions because of the more difficult level of professional involvement with clients and supervision of subordinate clinical staff members. Supervision may be exercised over the work of the above mentioned staff positions and student interns. The incumbent does related work as required.

**TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:** (Illustrative only)

Conducts intake and screening interviews with new patients, evaluating, and diagnosing their problems;  
Participates as a team leader and clinician in individual, group, family, and marital therapy;  
Supervises and provides mental health services to help clients adjust to their disabilities and social environment;  
Refers clients to other agencies for assistance;  
Supervises and coordinate various activity and treatment programs with other social agencies;  
A psychologist in this position would be expected to independently administer and interpret psychological tests;  
Compiles comprehensive clinical evaluations for courts, members of the criminal justice system, and other agencies requiring such assistance;  
Oversees the planning for the orderly discharge of patients to the community after completion of treatment;  
Aids the Director of the Clinic in responding to psychiatric emergencies;  
Collects and maintains appropriate data from various sources to be compiled in the client's case record;  
Provides direct supervision to staff clinicians and interns within the Clinic;  
Coordinates the community consultation and education component of the mental health program and directly provides these services to agencies and community groups needing such services;  
Prepares a variety of records and reports related to the work.

**FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES & PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Thorough knowledge of the practices and procedures of mental health fields and social and psychological factors affecting various psychiatric disorders and disabilities;  
Good knowledge of the functioning of community mental health facilities and scope of services rendered;  
Good knowledge of community resources and how to use them effectively in relation to the mental health program;  
Good knowledge of psychotherapeutic techniques and procedures related to mental health practices;  
Ability to organize work effectively;  
Ability to prepare technical and informational data for administrative use;  
Ability to interpret federal, state and local laws affecting mental health programs;  
Ability to prepare reports;  
Ability to provide professional leadership;  
Ability to plan and supervise the work of others;  
Ability to perform mental health services including diagnostic procedures;  
Sound judgment.

## Senior Mental Health Clinician

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Either:

- (a) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Doctoral Degree in Psychology and eighteen (18) months mental health experience; or
- (b) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Master's degree in Social Work or Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing and eighteen (18) months mental health experience.