

The Forensic Inpatient Stepdown Program

Mental Health Assistant Position Description

Become A Certified Mental Health Assistant

Put yourself in a purposeful role. Take the opportunity to apply yourself towards a meaningful and very important cause. As a Certified Mental Health Assistant you can take on one of the biggest issues we face today. Mass Incarceration and the treatment of the Severe Mentally Ill inmates. This unique opportunity allows you to be of services and potentially create change where policy makers, the justice system, and other proponents for change are struggling. Mental Health Assistants are advocates with deep insight, a clear perspective, and the experience to approach these issues with innovative solutions. Join Us!

Emerging Opportunities

Currently the Mental Health Assistant Position is increasing. Expansion is happening as we speak. The position began with 2 Mental Health Assistants and is now at six. As the position grows so does opportunity. Mental Health Assistants are gaining national recognition and will soon be a household name in the near future. Current Mental Health Assistants have recently appeared on several podcast with organization such as Heart forward LA, UCLA, and special appearance on channel 7 and Telemundo Media outlets. Current Mental Health Assistants have been invited to attend the upcoming National Virtual N.A.C.O.L.E (National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement) Conference this September.

Advantages

The primary advantage of the Mental Health Assistant is self-growth, transformation, and an opportunity for re-entry (freedom). The Mental Health Assistant is provided with a rich experience through education that focuses on mental health and hands on training with mentally challenged inmates. The experience has been proven to be self-rewarding. Mental Health Assistants work in collaboration with a multitude of professionals on a daily basis including but not limited to: psychiatrist, clinicians, medical doctors, superior internal and external officials, advocates and supporters.

What is F.I.P Step Down?

A specialized program designed to continue the stabilization of mentally ill patients discharged from Forensic Inpatient Program [FIP], a psychiatric unit at the facilities hospital, the Correction Treatment Center [CTC]. FIP Step Down also cares for inmates that are challenged and struggling to care for themselves in other parts of the jail. FIP Step Down is a module consisting of 6 pods where Mental Health Assistants are assigned in their own cell and live in the pods with the patients.

This is where the work of Mental Health Assistants is carried out. FIP Step Down functions on teamwork: a collaborations of doctors, clinicians, psychologist, nurses, Mental Health Assistants, and deputies all aiming for proper care and safe living conditions.

What do Mental Health Assistants Do?

We bridge the gap between mental health professionals and the patients. Living 24/7 with the patients gives us a distinct advantage involving a patient's behavior, symptoms, and medications adherence. Mental Health Assistants are trusted to relay critical observations to mental health personnel. These Exchanges results in effective treatment. Mental Health Assistants are also group providers, advocates, role models, leaders, and mentors to this vulnerable population. FIP Step Down is founded on sincere care.

Training for Success

Prospective Mental Health Assistants will undergo a rigorous 24 week training that is designed to equip the trainee with every tool necessary to deliver the treatment required in such a taxing environment. The training will also prepare the trainee to work with and effectively communicate with all personnel involved with the Program: Patients, Mental Health Staff, Custody, and Civilian Volunteers. Upon completion the trainee will be:

- Able to recognize and understand the many symptoms of serious mental disorders
- Well versed on psychotropic medications and their side effects
- Thoroughly educated on the history and depth of mental illness its pervasiveness and effect on society
- Able to administer educational groups and therapeutic activities
- Able to represent the Mental Health Assistant advocating for proper care for mentally ill inmates
- Able to communicate and interact with all individuals in a professional manner.

FIP Step Down is where change happens, opportunity is given and the path to transformation is offered. If this is for you fill out the questionnaire attached.