Position Description:

Mental Health Resource Center, a comprehensive not-for-profit mental health and social services provider and Joint Commission accredited organization, is currently seeking a **FORENSIC DIVERSION SPECIALIST** for our Jail Diversion Program.

This position will provide specialized screening, engagement, in-jail competency restoration, and therapy for individuals identified for possible diversion from the jail and forensic state mental health treatment facilities (SMHTF). Each individuals' mental health and/or substance abuse issues will be addressed while they are incarcerated and during transition into the community. This position will be responsible for tracking and data collection of screenings, diversions, and outcomes for individuals receiving jail diversion services.

Duties include but are not limited to:

1.   The Forensic Diversion Specialist position will engage individuals with a strengths-based, person-centered approach and complete the following duties:

- Provide screenings of individuals in the target population.
- Based on screenings, identify eligible participants with mental illnesses and provide a more thorough assessment to include arrest and psychiatric histories.
- Respond to referrals received from court/jail personnel and follow up with the identified individuals.
- Track and ensure follow-up and monitoring for individuals identified for potential diversion.
- Work closely with in-jail medical provider to ensure individuals are referred for immediate and appropriate interventions that may include psychiatric medication.
- Provide education to individuals on their illness and, if on medication, the necessity of taking the medication as prescribed to reduce symptoms.
- Provide screening, engagement, referral, treatment and/or rehabilitation to individuals who are potentially Incompetent to Proceed (ITP) or Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGI) or are deemed by the court to be ITP or NGI.
- Understand the Sequential Intercept Model and coordinate transitions to later intercept points whenever possible.
- Ensure continuity between the jail, treatment providers, and the Court.
- Work with community evaluators to provide options to the Court.
- Effectively provide diversion, supervision, and treatment services to reduce the cycle of re-arrest and exacerbation of symptoms.
- Utilize Evidence Based Practices that include motivational interviewing and recovery-oriented engagement strategies.
- Provide jail in-reach and community outreach as indicated.
- Provide re-entry services such as treatment services, intensive case management, benefits coordination, vocational services, housing, and systemic collaboration with the justice system until participants are well stabilized.
- Refer to and coordinate necessary psychiatric evaluation and medication management to ensure access to stabilization services.

- Assist with linkage to appropriate mental health, substance abuse, and medical providers as appropriate.
- Collaborate with other community agencies to address immediate individual needs.
- Offer effective interventions to assist in coordinating services.
- Assess individual risk for danger to self, danger to others, and other safety related concerns and responds accordingly.
- Assess and monitor for symptoms of trauma and indications of abuse, neglect, and/or abandonment. Use appropriate reporting mechanisms.
- Interview natural supports to gather relevant information and provide information as needed.
- Help enhance treatment efficacy and public safety.
- Offer input and assist in discharge planning for any participant released from custody.
- Participate in inter-agency team staffings to discuss challenging situations.
- Maintain close working relationships with the community Forensic Specialists, State Attorney, Public Defender, Court Services, state hospitals and the Courts to best navigate the participant's cases through the legal system.
- Performs other duties as required to meet program and departmental goals and objectives.

2. Assures the accuracy, completeness and confidentiality of clinical records.

- Documents each encounter on a contact log.
- Completes and submits clinical documentation daily to ensure accurate and detailed notes of the services provided.
- Obtains documentation of past medical and psychiatric history.
- Maintains current and comprehensive information in each record.
- Ensures records are maintained according to MHRC policies and procedures and in accordance with contractual and licensing requirements.

3. Maintains administrative records and responsibilities.

- Maintains all records required for reporting.
- Collects identified data for tracking and follow-up.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES:

- Maintains communication with supervisor relative to program functioning, unusual events, problems, as well as successful achievement.

- Attends trainings, in-service sessions and staff meetings.

- Other duties as assigned by the Multidisciplinary Forensic (MFT) Team Leader, Forensic Team Leader, Director of Forensic and Care Coordination, and Vice President of Community Support Services.

Position Requirements:

In order to be considered, candidates must have a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Social Work, Counseling, Criminal Justice or related field required (a related Human Services field is defined as one in which 30 hours of course work includes the study of human behavior and development)

Master's degree in Human Services, Counseling, Social Work or related field preferred.

Three (3) years' experience working with persons with severe and persistent mental illness and/or substance abuse treatment required.

Registered Intern in the State of Florida (IMHC, ISW, IMFT) preferred.

Licensed in the State of Florida (LMHC, LCSW or LMFT) preferred.

Excellent verbal and written communication skills are also required. Candidates must be proficient in Microsoft Office Programs, external email and the use of the Internet.

Position Details:

Full Time: Monday through Friday, 7:30am-4:00pm.

This full time position offers a comprehensive benefits package.