



Mental Health Technician

Want to join one of South Texas' premier child welfare agencies in "restoring innocence and strengthening families?" The Children's Shelter is waiting for you! Since 1901, The Children's Shelter has touched countless lives and every year, serves over 4,000 children and parents. Become part of a growing team providing high-quality, trauma-informed care for children and families.

The Mental Health Worker will assist in the direct care and management of children and adolescents. The Mental Health Worker will provide direct supervision, safety and crisis management for resident population. He or she will ensure quality care and treatment of all residents and promotes the highest level of safety, physical, mental and psychological well-being of the residents in accordance to agency, DFPS Minimum Standards for General Residential Operations, the Council on Accreditation, and other local, state or federal regulatory requirements. The Mental Health Worker ensures that Trauma-Informed principles of safety, collaboration, choice, empowerment, and trustworthiness are implemented to ensure a safe and therapeutic environment. Mental Health Worker interact with residents in a positive and respectful manner, providing a nurturing and secure environment at all times.

Responsibilities Include:

- Responsible for overall safety, welfare, care and security of children and youth in care.
- Provide floor support to Intervention Specialists through constant monitoring of residents for potentially unsafe behaviors.
- Prevent and manage crisis situations with residents who have various behavioral issues such as mental instability, physical and emotional abuse, substance abuse, physical aggression, etc.
- The Worker supervises, socializes, assists, and observes assigned youth.
- Observe residents for any abnormal behavioral or physical signs and respond as required.
- Participate as part of the multidisciplinary team to create plans to support the youth in care. Team includes Program Director, Program Manager, Shift Supervisor, medical team, DFPS and Family Tapestry case workers.
- A mental health Worker is expected to understand and implement individual treatment plans, safety/behavioral plans, record patient behavior/daily activities and provide a safe, supportive environment for the patients.
- Responsible for knowing which residents they are responsible for and being aware of and accountable for each resident's on-going activity.
- Assist direct care staff with the supervision of residents to ensure the integrity of milieu; monitor and participate in programmatic activities and outdoor recreation.
- Coordinate with other team members, such as the child's DFPS worker, Family Tapestry Case Care Specialist, medical team, Program Director, and Program Manager to get necessary information about specific children.
- Workers may administer medications (prescribed and non-prescription over the counter medications) and complete necessary documentation required by DFPS Licensing Standards and program operational procedures.
- Ensure consistent implementation of programmatic rewards, recognition, and consequences with residents (goal attainment system or similar).
- Ensure that all significant events that occur during shift are reported accurately and completely. Ensure that proper reports are completed for each event prior to leaving the shift.
- Conduct behavior and crisis management activities to ensure patient safety and quality of care; closely monitor all interactions and behaviors between staff and residents to ensure the environment is safe and conducive to positive change; anticipate and respond quickly to escalating behaviors and provide appropriate crisis intervention; utilize de-escalation techniques to diffuse situations; quickly prioritize safety concerns

Requirements:

- Must be at least 21 years old.
- Favorable background checks, fingerprinting, and driving record.
- At least two years experience in general residential operations or related setting preferred (psychiatric hospital; juvenile justice setting).
- Bachelor's degree preferred, but will consider a Bachelor's degree in progress.

- Must be able complete emergency behavior intervention training for crisis intervention and de-escalation.
- Skills in organizing work in a responsible way in an environment with multiple challenges and priorities.
- Knowledge of de-escalation and behavior management.
- Ability to engage and communicate effectively with persons from diverse cultures and communities, as well as from different groups, including residents, their parents, agency colleagues, support staff members, supervisors, administrators, and persons in the legal and judicial system.
- Ability to legibly document required paperwork, with an emphasis on recording the details.
- Maintain current driver's license along with a favorable driving record. Must have access to reliable and safe transportation for self.
- Bi-lingual in English and Spanish preferred.
- Working knowledge of DFPS General Residential Operations preferred.
- Ability to spend time standing, bending, stooping, and walking around the facility supervising the activities and movement of residents.
- Able to climb stairs repeatedly and lift at least 25 pounds.
- Willingness and ability to work effectively with co-workers. Teamwork and cooperation with co-worker is mandatory.
- Mature judgment, emotional maturity, and an ability to act in an independent, responsible manner in all matters relating to the care of residents placed in the center.
- Willingness to work at both campus emergency shelter operations but primarily duties/responsibilities remain at WCCY.
- Maintaining a working telephone or other means of communication to be able to be contacted as needed.

The Children's Shelter is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to a culturally diverse workplace and offering a competitive pay and benefits package.

You can apply on-line by visiting our website www.chshel.org or in person at:

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Monday-Friday 8am-5pm