

# UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

## JOB DESCRIPTION

### I. TITLE OR CLASSIFICATION

Mental Health Therapist

### II. DESCRIPTION OF POSITION

The Site Mental Health Therapist is part of a multi-disciplinary team working with students with social-emotional needs. The Mental Health Therapist provides mental health counseling and therapeutic interventions for students and their families.

### III. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of the Mental Health Therapist includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Develop a plan for the therapeutic intervention for each student that includes individual/group/family counseling and participation in the classroom behavior management system.
- Work with parents to extend therapeutic interventions to the home.
- Provide training to both special education and regular education/mainstream staff to support the implementation of a behavior management system to enhance a student's functioning across educational settings.
- In conjunction with the team, develop, monitor, and document behavioral performance of each student assuring behavioral goals and mental health treatment plans for each child are being addressed.
- Assess the need and create behavior support plans as necessary.
- Implement behavior support plans and train staff in execution of plans.
- Teach and reinforce positive behavior choices made by students in the classroom, home and community settings.
- Identify antecedent conditions that are contributing to or sustaining desired/undesired behavior. Apply appropriate antecedent management interventions.
- Prepare and present a summary of therapeutic progress at assigned students' IEP meetings.
- Prepare and update written annual social-emotional IEP goals and objectives.
- Provide social skills training (i.e. pro-social) communication, anger management, conflict resolution, etc.) to both individual students and groups.
- Assist the behavior specialist in case management of students in class and at home.
- Co-lead group therapy with the behavior specialist.
- Participate in weekly multi-disciplinary team meetings to assess students' needs.
- Schedule and attend weekly consultation with behavior specialist and classroom teacher to review behavioral and therapeutic issues/progress of each student.
- Communicate monthly with students' parents. If needed, provide training to students' families regarding the therapeutic intervention and how to implement them in the home. Training occurs at site.
- Attend District/Site Special Education meetings and offer resources to staff.
- Provide prudent and appropriate responses to behavioral crises for the students on your caseload.
- Must report any suspicions of abuse or neglect of children to the proper authorities.
- Maintain confidentiality and comply with governmental laws and regulations.
- Participate and successfully complete professional development seminars/workshops assigned by supervisor.

**IV. KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/ABILITIES:**

- Possess strong written, verbal communication, and presentation skills.
- Possess sound time and material organizational skills.
- Ability to constructively engage in rapidly changing behavioral situations.
- Keen observation, listening and interactive skills vital for developing professional relations.
- Knowledge of behavior modification systems and development of behavior plans.
- Knowledge of and ability to implement individual/group/family counseling strategies and other forms of therapeutic interventions.
- Ability to assess the needs of children and develop appropriate assessment forms of therapeutic intervention.
- Ability to develop, prepare, deliver and monitor IEP's based on identified skill and social-emotional behavior deficit areas.
- Knowledge and experience developing, reporting and administering IEP plans.
- Knowledge of basic computer skills in order to communicate via e-mail and preparing documents on a word processor.
- Must be able to work independently and cooperatively with classroom, school and district staff.
- Must be able to complete training in physical restraint system.

**V. JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

- Bachelor's Degree preferably in Human Service field/Psychology or a related field.
- At least 1 year experience working directly with special education/high risk children in a school setting.
- Knowledge and experience of behavior management systems.
- Ability to respond effectively to quickly escalating behavioral situations that involve children on mainstream school sites.
- Advanced degree/certification in Counseling, Pupil Personnel Services, Marriage Family Child Counselor, or Marriage Family Therapist.
- Ability to physically restrain a student if necessary.

**Revised May 2007**

*Approved by the Board of Trustees June 18, 2007*