

# LA FAMILY HOUSING

**Job Title:** Mental Health Specialist

**Job Type:** Full-time

**Location:** North Hollywood, California

## Duties & Responsibilities

LA Family Housing is Looking to Fill a position for a Mental Health Specialist. The Mental Health Specialist will work within the Street-based Engagement Team (SBET) to assess and provide needed mental health referrals, crisis intervention, maintain thorough and accurate records in both written form and through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and collaborate closely with various programs connected to the Department of Mental Health (DMH). Responsible for providing field-based mental health assessments, service referrals, and follow-up referral/service tracking to homeless single adults living on the streets of Service Planning Area (SPA) 2.

### SPECIFIC DUTIES

#### Collaboration:

- Provide mobile, field-based, outreach to homeless single adults living on the streets of SPA 2.
- Work within the goals of CES to reduce street homelessness by linking program participants to mental health, health services housing services, and other supportive services for which they are eligible.
- Ensure SMT provides excellent street-based engagement services that allow homeless single adults access to additional community resources and support.
- Keep detailed logs of SMT outreach activities.

#### Dignity:

- Utilizing “Harm Reduction” & “Housing First” philosophies when working with homeless individuals.
- Work closely with mobile medical team to ensure homeless single adults on the streets are triaged to needed medical care and health care assessment.
- Ensure that persons with a mental health problem are identified; work with the individuals to develop a mental health service plan, if desired.

#### Leadership:

- Ability to complete safety assessment and liaise with Psychiatric Mobile Response Team (PMRT) if danger to self/others resulting from a mental disorder or grave disability that may result in involuntary detention at a hospital facility is suspected.
- Assist in onboarding activities for MHS new-hires related to mental health assessment, documentation, linkage, and safety procedures.
- Provide crisis intervention as needed.
- Follow-up to ensure that referrals are completed; provide advocacy as needed.
- Create relationships with mental health service providers and develop the referral process; maintain a resource listing of mental health services for those engaged through the SMT.

#### Perseverance:

- Must maintain thorough and accurate records in both written form and through HMIS.
- Attend various, regular staff, agency and community meetings as designated by supervisor.
- Additional tasks, projects and responsibilities as assigned by supervisor.

## Education, Experience and Skills:

### EDUCATION:

- Master's in Social Work or Master's in Counseling and two years of experience in social services or non-profit environment

### EXPERIENCE:

- Two years of experience in social services or within the non-profit environment

### KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

- Passion for ending homelessness
- Knowledge and experience in conducting field-based services; understanding of the Coordinated Entry System (CES) and its overarching goal of achieving "functional zero" for those experiencing homelessness
- Knowledge of issues facing homeless single adults (e.g. chronic health, substance abuse, mental health, domestic abuse, resources for undocumented persons)
- Must be able to perform extensive charting, electronic data entry, and documentation
- Clinical experience in working with participants with multiple diagnoses including mental illness, substance abuse and/or physical illness
- Knowledge of DSM-5 required (attained either from school work or work experience).
- Experience working with a multidisciplinary team
- Excellent written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to be flexible and work in an environment subject to ongoing change
- Bilingual: Spanish/English a plus
- Valid CA Driver's License in good standing

## LAFH Benefits:

Health, Dental, Vision, Life, Voluntary Life, 403B Retirement Plan, 529 Education Savings Plan, Long Term Disability, Employee Assistance Program, AFLAC Policies, AFLAC FSAs, Legal Policy, Employee Appreciation Program, Company Sponsored Employee Outings, 9/80 Alternative Work Schedule, Paid Sick, Vacation and 11 Observed Holidays.

## Equal Employment Opportunity Statement:

**EEO:** LAFH is committed to providing equal employment opportunities for applicants and employees.

**FAIR CHANCE INITIATIVE:** LAFH is in compliance with the Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring and will consider qualified applicants with criminal histories.

**PHYSICAL ACCOMMODATIONS:** All candidates must be able to perform the physical demands of the position with or without reasonable accommodation. For a list of physical demands, please refer to the full job description.

## To Apply:

Email your resume and cover letter to [HR@lafh.org](mailto:HR@lafh.org)