

Mental Health Consultant

Consultant Purpose

The Mental Health Consultant will assure that adequate training is provided to parents and staff. That site reviews are completed to monitor program compliance with Head Start Performance Standards. To apply professional expertise in the Mental Health discipline and work in cooperation with all other disciplines in order to provide internal consulting services, training and compliance monitoring.

Consultant Responsibilities:

Internal Consulting

1. Research and develop collaborative relations with local partners to provide Mental Health assistance as needed.
2. Research and develop materials for distribution in areas of community resources, mental health, child abuse prevention and parenting education.
3. Debrief staff regarding issues related to child abuse, domestic violence and mental health concerns.
4. Provide information for staff and families to link them with appropriate community resources.
5. Collaborate with outside agencies to advocate for the needs of Head Start families.
6. Provide regular and ongoing consultation to classrooms.
7. Be available to answer questions of staff or families regarding issues in the mental health area. (Telephone or in person).

Training

1. Collaborate with community organizations to collect and disseminate information to staff and families on current Mental Health Issues.
2. Participate in Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning Training and assist in facilitating intervention strategies with staff and families.

Compliance and Monitoring

1. Conduct one scheduled and one unscheduled observation at each Head Start classroom. Provide written and verbal reviews of the observation.
2. Participate in the first multi-disciplinary child staffing of the school year.
3. Identify mental health needs of children and families using integrated screening systems and observations.
4. Provide consultation to assure that written policies and procedures are kept current.
5. Attend interagency, organizational and committee meetings per request.
6. Perform other duties as requested.

Requirements

1. Bachelor's or Graduate Degree (preferred) in relevant discipline, combined with a mental health/family counseling focus.
2. Thorough understanding of mental health in the age group, birth – five.
3. Ability to communicate (verbal and written) effectively and appropriately with team members.
4. Ability to work independently, while collaborating with team members and community resources as needed.
5. Sound problem solving and decision making for the welfare of the child, family, staff and Head Start program.
6. Ability to translate theory and professional training into practical solutions.