

**VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA ALASKA
CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY/MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR
COVENANT HOUSE PARTNERSHIP
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

Position Title: Mental Health Clinician – Covenant House

Reports To: Clinical Director – Outpatient Services

Job Site: Covenant House Alaska

Objective

The Chemical Dependency/Mental Health Counselor provides services to youth with SED. This counselor will provide assessments, recommendations to the Covenant House Alaska outpatient services, and referrals as appropriate.

Essential Functions, Duties & Responsibilities

Behavioral Health Assessments

Administers the Alaska Screening Tool (AST) and Client Status Review (CSR) form. Conducts comprehensive behavioral health assessments on youth with SED involved in Covenant House programs to determine their substance abuse issues and possible need for services. Services provided will be determined by the AST, CSR, assessment data, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual IV TR, and the American Society of Addiction Medicine Patient Placement Criteria II. Recommendations will be made to Covenant House staff following the assessment. Outside referrals will be made as appropriate with referrals being coordinated with program staff.

Clinical Services

Provide outpatient services to youth with SED and substance use disorders involved in Covenant House programs. The intensity of services will be determined by the results of the assessment. Services will include screening, behavioral health assessments (including assessment of the family system), program intake and orientation, individualized treatment planning and review, individual and group counseling, referrals and case management by both VOA, recovery support services, direct family involvement in treatment as they are available, family support services, transition and discharge planning and linkage to community based support groups. Youth will be provided continuing care and ongoing support as needed. Motivational interviewing techniques will be used to enhance engagement and to create an atmosphere conducive to influencing change.

Training

Provide in-service trainings for Covenant House staff on issues related to adolescent substance abuse and chemical dependency.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Master's Degree in psychology, social work or a human services related field
- Two years of experience working with youth with SED and co-occurring substance use disorders

- Proven ability to work with diverse community groups; with a focus on Alaska Native people, knowledge of their values and belief systems and ability to provide culturally competent services
- Ability to make sound decisions based on information available.
- Excellent writing and communication skills
- Ability to work flexible hours (including days, evenings and some weekend hours.) Ability to travel if required (must have own transportation.)

Working Conditions

The work environment characteristics and physical demands described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- Works in office areas. Interacts with staff, consultants, and outside vendors. May be subjected to interruptions throughout the workday.
- While performing the duties of this job the employee is frequently required to sit; use hands to finger, handle, or feel; and talk or hear. The employee is occasionally required to lift up to 25 pounds. The vision requirement includes close vision.

Acknowledgement

Every effort has been made to identify the essential functions of this position. However, this job description in no way states or implies that these are the only duties you may be required to perform. The omission of specific descriptions of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or can be considered essential to this position.

I have read and understand this job description and fully understand the requirements set forth herein. I accept the position and agree to abide by the requirements set forth and will perform all duties and responsibilities to the best of my ability. I further understand that my employment is at-will; that my employment may be terminated at-will by Volunteers of America Alaska or myself, with or without notice for any reason not expressly prohibited by law.

_____ Printed Name of Employee

_____ Date: _____
Signature of Employee