



Pennington County
Mental Health Counselor
(Non-Exempt B25)

Position Objective:

The Mental Health Counselor provides comprehensive mental health programs and resources to support staff and inmates/detainees at the Pennington County Jail (PCJ) and Western South Dakota Juvenile Services Center (JSC).

The Mental Health Counselor makes mental health resource, risk and treatment decisions for inmates and detainees.

This position requires close in-person interaction with those who are incarcerated.

While typically staffed daytime hours, Monday through Friday this position may be called in to conduct mental health risk assessments as needed.

Essential Functions:

- Providing inmate/detainee behavior management resources and recommendations for staff
- Assessing inmate/detainee mental health conditions as directed and identifying appropriate services
- Assisting with appropriate inmate/detainee classification
- Identifying early mental health risks
- Identifying risk behavior requiring the placement involuntary mental holds.
- Providing individual, group and crisis intervention counseling
- Coordinating inmate services with medical staff and other in-house resources
- Preparing and completing assessment reports and treatment plans
- Conducting new employee training on suicide prevention and mental health basics.
- Adhering to policy and procedures
- Attending meetings and completing trainings as required.
- Performing other duties as assigned.

This job specification should not be construed to imply that these requirements are the exclusive duties of the position. Incumbents may be required to follow any other instructions, and to perform any other related duties, as may be required.

Experience and/or Education Required:

- Master's Degree in a Human Services Field
- Minimum one-year mental health experience, preference to those with correctional setting experience.
- Preference for those who are South Dakota Qualified Mental Health Professionals

- A valid South Dakota Driver's License within 90 days of moving to South Dakota.

Working Environment:

The work is typically performed in a secure correctional facility during daytime hours. It will include close interactions with inmates and the occasional evening or weekend.

Physical Requirements:

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to sit; use hands; talk and hear. The employee is frequently required to walk, sit and reach with hands and arms. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 25 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision.