

JOB TITLE: MH Specialist I

SALARY RANGE: 70 (\$33,086.40 - \$50,119.20)

JOB LOCATION: Administrative Base: Work Location:
Department of Mental Health Bryce Hospital

RSA Union Building 1651 Ruby Tyler Parkway
100 North Union Street Tuscaloosa, AL 35404
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1410

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree in Communications, Psycholinguistics, Deaf Studies or a human services field plus experience (24 months or more) interpreting, working with language dysfluent clients, communication specialist work or working with individuals who are mentally ill.

OR

Considerable (48 months or more) programmatic experience in the field of deafness with the Department of Mental Health, plus experience (24 months or more) interpreting, working with language dysfluent clients, communication specialist work, or working with individuals who are mentally ill.

Human services field includes the following disciplines: Social Work, Psychology, Criminal/Juvenile Justice, Special Education, Sociology, Speech Education, Rehabilitation, Counseling, Speech Pathology, Audiology, Nursing, Physical or Occupational Therapy, and any related academic disciplines associated with the study of Human Behavior, Human Skill Development, or Basic Human Care Needs

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Native or near-native signing skills equal to superior level or higher of signing skills in American Sign Language, as measured by a recognized screening process (SLPI). Certification in either sign language (RID), in teaching American Sign Language (ASLTA-Q or ASLTA-P), or equivalent must be obtained within three (3) years of employment. Must be able to obtain licensure or be exempt from licensure to interpret according to Alabama Licensure Board of Interpreters and Transliterators (ALBIT).

KIND OF WORK: Works within the Office Deaf Services of the Department of Mental Health providing culturally and linguistically affirmative services to deaf and hard of hearing (D/HH) to include consumers with disorders of mental illness and/or chemical dependency in inpatient, community and DMH related settings. Responsibility includes providing the specialized services of a communication assessment and facilitation of language for D/HH individuals. Participates as a member of an interdisciplinary treatment team, assisting in the development and implementation of treatment and discharge plans. Provides advisory services on sign language and alternative communication issues to D/HH individuals and professional staff. Teaches standardized sign language and alternative or augmentative communication methods to dysfluent individuals with functional hearing losses. Coordinates and teaches ASL to non-signing staff. Other work duties involve research and development of non-verbal or limited verbal types of communication tools and teaching materials. Provides some interpreting in conjunction with a Mental Health Interpreter.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES: Knowledge of signing systems and dialects pertinent to regions and ethnicity in Alabama and other southeastern states. Knowledge of methodology in teaching and tutoring American Sign Language (ASL). A general knowledge of deaf cultural groups in the United States and of identity levels (deaf world, hearing majority, and marginality). Knowledge of state-of-the-art communication methods. Knowledge of nonverbal and augmentative communication strategies. Ability to assess signed communication, particularly to differentiate idiosyncratic from abnormal expressions and language. Ability to communicate fluently, clearly, and effectively to any deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, or hearing individual using either sign language or written English. Ability to interpret in appropriate modalities as needed.

METHOD OF SELECTION: Applicants will be rated on the basis of an evaluation of their education, training, and experience and should provide adequate work history identifying experiences related to duties and minimum qualifications as mentioned above. All relevant information is subject to verification. Drug screenings and security clearance will be conducted on prospective applicants being given serious consideration for employment and whose job requires direct contact with clients.

HOW TO APPLY: Use an official application for Professional Employment (Exempt Classification) which may be obtained from this office, other Department of Mental Health Facility Personnel Offices, or visit our website at www.mh.alabama.gov. Only work experience detailed on the application will be considered. Additional sheets, if needed, should be in the same format as the application. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of an official application. Applications should be returned to Human Resource Management, Department of Mental Health, P.O. Box 301410, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1410 or RSA Union Building, 100 North Union Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104. Copies of License/Certifications should be forwarded with your application. An official copy of academic transcripts is required and must be forwarded by the school, college, or university to the personnel office at the above address.

DEADLINE: Until Filled