



SCHUYLER COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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Lorry Johnson
Personnel Officer

Examination Open to the Public

Mental Health Therapist Exam #64459

EXAM DATE: May 12, 2018

LAST DATE TO FILE: March 23, 2018 at 4:30pm

SALARY: \$28.59/hr

EXAM FEE: \$15.00 examination fee payable by cash, money order, or check made payable to the Schuyler County Treasurer. Please write the name and number of the examination on the check.

HOW TO APPLY: Applicants must submit a Civil Service "Application for Employment and/or Examination" to Schuyler County Civil Service office. Applications **WILL NOT** be accepted via email or fax. You may include a resume with your application; however, **you may NOT substitute "See Resume"** for completing any portion of the application form. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE DISAPPROVED.**

VACANCY: A vacancy in this title has been filled temporarily in the Schuyler County Community Services Department. A permanent appointment will be made from the eligible list that results from this examination. The eligible list will also be used to fill any appropriate full-time and/or part-time vacancies as they occur during the life of the list.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: None.

JOB DESCRIPTION: The work involves responsibility for providing professional therapy services in the County Mental Health Clinic. The duties involve making psycho-social assessments of clients, developing and implementing treatment plans, and coordinating patient referrals to other agencies for supportive services. The advanced training required of this position affords incumbents with theoretical and practical knowledge of a variety of social work or psychological methods in helping individuals and families under different conditions with a primary focus on psycho-social factors in planning clinical interventions. The work is performed under the general supervision of the Clinic Director or the Supervising Social Worker who provides guidance and instruction on methods and procedures. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Conducts intake and screening of new clients, makes psycho-social assessments to identify problems;
Develops treatment plans in consultation with other clinical staff aimed at helping clients reach the most satisfying social adjustment possible;
Provides psychotherapy to clients based on their needs and capacity using various social work treatment modalities;
Participates as a team member in individual, group and family therapy;

Coordinates and arranges for the provision of other services and resources for clients with community agencies and facilities;
Performs crisis intervention activities as needed;
Plans with the mental health staff and with community agencies to relate the client's treatment and rehabilitation program to his/her social situation prior to discharge;
Collects and maintains appropriate information from various sources such as professional staff and client families to establish overall approach to the solution of client's mental and social problems;
Refers clients to Psychologist for testing and Psychiatrist for medication review as needed;
Participates in staff meetings to discuss treatment plans for individual cases and in general program planning;
Prepares and maintains a variety of records and reports including client assessments, treatment plans, case progress notes, letters to clients and other agencies, treatment and discharge summaries;
Participates in the process of transfer of clients to other levels of treatment as appropriate.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Either

- A) Licensed by New York State as a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW), **or**
- B) Licensed by New York State as Psychologist, **or**
- C) Licensed by New York State as a Mental Health Counselor

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION: Candidates may be required to pass a pre-employment drug test and/or undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, which will include a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to pass the pre-employment drug test or to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification.

SCOPE OF EXAMINATION: Use of calculators is ALLOWED

A written test designed to evaluate knowledge, skills and /or abilities in the following areas:

1. Developing & implementing treatment in a social work program

These questions test for knowledge, understanding, and ability to apply social work concepts, theories, principles, and practices in a mental hygiene program which provides services to clients who have various mental hygiene conditions such as mental illness, developmental disabilities or addiction. Questions may cover such topics as assessment, development, and implementation of treatment; coordination of treatment; evaluation of treatment; coordination of services; social work standards; roles of treatment team members; individual, family, and group counseling; community services; behavior management; crisis intervention; and patient/client advocacy.

2. Interviewing

These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices employed in obtaining information from individuals through structured conversations. These questions require you to apply the principles, practices, and techniques of effective interviewing to hypothetical interviewing situations. Included are questions that present a problem arising from an interviewing situation, and you must choose the most appropriate course of action to take.

3. Preparing written material

These questions test for the ability to present information clearly and accurately, and to organize paragraphs logically and comprehensibly. For some questions, you will be given information in two or three sentences followed by four restatements of the information. You must then choose the best

version. For other questions, you will be given paragraphs with their sentences out of order. You must then choose, from four suggestions, the best order for the sentences.

4. Working with individuals to promote mental health

These questions test for knowledge of characteristics, causes and treatment methods associated with chronic mental illness and/or addiction. Questions cover such topics as establishing, maintaining and terminating client relationships; recognizing, interpreting, and responding to individual and group behaviors; providing access to essential services such as financial, housing, medical, educational, legal, vocational, and recreational; and eligibility criteria of programs and agencies offering such services.

The New York State Department of Civil Service has not prepared a test guide for this examination. However, candidates may find information in the publication "How to take a written test" helpful in preparing for this test. This publication is available on line at:
www.cs.ny.gov/testing/localtestguides.cfm

Applications and announcements are available at www.schuylercounty.us or the
Schuyler County Civil Service Office
105 Ninth St., Unit 21, Watkins Glen, NY 14891 (607) 535-8190

Issue Date: February 21, 2018

SCHUYLER COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE—GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXAMINATIONS

Application: An original application must be filed for each separate examination. Applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. in the Civil Service office on the “Last Filing Date” to be considered for this examination. We do not make formal acknowledgement of the receipt of an application or take responsibility for non-delivery or postal delay. Submission of a resume does not relieve you of the responsibility for completing all sections of the application. Answer every question; incomplete applications will be disapproved. Be sure to read the detailed announcement to determine whether or not you meet the announced requirements. No fee refund will be made to applicants who are disqualified or fail to appear for the examination. Notify this office if your address changes after applying. No attempt will be made to locate candidates who have moved. Download application and forms at web site www.schuylercounty.us.

Education: A copy of your diploma should be submitted if you qualify by possession of a degree. Transcripts should be submitted whenever the qualifications require a specific college major or specified number of credits.

Fee and Fee Waiver: Application fee of \$15 (\$25 for Uniformed Protective Services exams) must be submitted with application. Cash, money order or check made payable to Schuyler County Treasurer. Write exam name and number on check. The examination fee may be waived for persons claiming to be “unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household.” Use Schuyler County Waiver form.

Application Review: Disqualified candidates will receive a disapproval letter and will have the opportunity to submit facts in opposition to disqualification. Approved candidates will receive an admission letter a week before the date of the exam telling when and where to appear for the examination. If you do not receive your letter within five days of the examination, call the Civil Service office at 607-535-8190. Falsification or material misstatements of any part of the application may result in disqualification from the exam or from permanent competitive appointment. Statements on the application may be verified after the examination is held. At that time those candidates not meeting the requirements will be disqualified.

Residency: Candidates must be legal residents of Schuyler County of one of the contiguous counties (Yates, Seneca, Steuben, Chemung, or Tompkins) for at least one month immediately preceding the examination date. For some examinations, residency may be waived. Under Section 23-4a of Civil Service Law, a municipality may request a certification of eligible candidates who have been residents of that municipality for at least one month prior to certification.

Multiple Examinations: Qualified candidates may take a combination of examinations being given on the same date. The time limit for any combination or series of examinations cannot exceed eight (8) hours.

Cross-filing: If you're applying for civil service examinations in multiple jurisdictions when examinations are scheduled on the same date, you must make arrangements to take all the examinations at one test site. You must apply in each jurisdiction and notify each that you are cross-filing. If you have applied for both state and local examinations, you must take all your examinations at the state center. To make arrangements, call (518) 457-7022 no later than two weeks before the test date.

Calculators: Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use a quiet hand-held, solar or battery powered calculator. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell checkers, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, dictionaries, or any similar devices are prohibited. No books or other reference materials are allowed.

Eligible Lists: Unless otherwise noted, the final rank order of the eligible list established as a result of this exam will be determined on the basis of the scores received on the written test, plus veterans and seniority credits where appropriate. The resulting eligible list for this examination will not be less than one year but no more than four years. Appointment from an eligible list must be made from the top three candidates willing to accept the appointment.

Rating: This examination is announced and will be rated in accordance with Section 23-2 of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations dealing with the rating of exams will apply to this examination.

Veterans/Military: Veterans or disabled veterans who wish to claim additional credit must submit a copy of their DD-214 and supporting paperwork before the eligible list is established. The requirements set by NYS for these credits must be met. Military Service members on active duty on the exam date may request a military make-up examination.

Children of Firefighters and Police Officers Killed in the Line of Duty: In conformance with section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive an additional ten points in a competitive examination for original appointment in the same municipality in which his or her parent has served. You must inform this office when you submit your application and must also submit documentation before the eligible list is established.

Religious Observers: Most tests are held on Saturdays. If the test date conflicts with a religious observance or practice, check the box on the application. Arrangements will be made for an alternate test date, usually the following Monday.

Disabled Persons: If special accommodations for testing are required, please indicate in writing the disability and desired conditions necessary to accommodate your disability by the last filing date of the exam.

School District Positions: Per Chapter 180 of the Laws of 2000, and by Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, to be employed in a position designated by a school district as involving direct contact with students, a clearance for employment from that state education department is required.

Background Investigation: Candidates may be required to pass a pre-employment drug test and/or undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, including a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment.

NYS Dept. of Civil Service publications, *How to Take a Written Test*, and *Questions and Answers About Municipal Civil Service Examinations* are available at their web site (www.cs.state.ny.us/msd/map.html).

This examination may be rescheduled if there is a weather emergency. Listen to radio station WFLR for information.