



Lori A. Shibinette
Commissioner

Lori A. Weaver
Deputy Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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July 20, 2022

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 94:6, the Department of Administrative Services respectfully requests to place Gerald Rocha at Step 6 for the position of Director, Sununu Youth Services, Position #9U417, unclassified salary grade GG, earning \$105,482.00, effective upon Governor and Council approval. 100% General Funds.

EXPLANATION

The Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC) is the State's sole secured treatment facility within the continuum of care for adjudicated and detained youth. The Director provides strategic leadership, direction, and planning; programmatic, fiscal, regulatory, physical plant, and personnel oversight; facilities management; and operational direction to ensure the provision of a continuum of high-quality services to New Hampshire's youth in a secure, trauma-informed, therapeutic residential program which includes multidisciplinary residential, educational, vocational, and clinical programs designed to rehabilitate troubled youth.

The Director is responsible for leading and sustaining a transformative multi-year initiative to plan, develop, and implement a new clinical and therapeutic model of care, inform the development of a new facility designed to complement a clinical and therapeutic model of care, and support a therapeutic and healing culture within the facility in collaboration with numerous government entities, regulatory agencies, and a wide spectrum of stakeholders. The position reports directly to the Director of the Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and has direct reports within the leadership of the SYSC, and collaborates with other senior leaders within DCYF and DHHS who interface with SYSC programming.

Mr. Rocha possess a Masters in Community Mental Health Counseling and is a NH Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor. He has most recently worked for Seacoast Mental Health as the Clinical Manager of Intake where he was responsible for complete oversight of access to care operations and admissions. He created a statewide community mental health center initiative called Intake Collaborative to establish processes to minimize barriers to accessing mental health services. Prior to this position, Mr. Rocha was the Director of Psychological Services for Easter Seals, providing oversight to residential and educational programming, where he successfully implemented a trauma informed model of care.

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Based on his educational background, experience and demonstrated skills Mr. Rocha is exceptionally well qualified to direct and implement strategies for a new clinical and therapeutic model of care and inform the development of a new facility.

In addition to Mr. Rocha's education and experience, the hiring landscape supports appointment at Step 6. I respectfully request that Mr. Rocha be placed in the Director, Sununu Youth Services Center position, unclassified salary grade GG, at step 6 with an effective start date of August 12, 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori A. Shibinette". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "L" and "S".

Lori A. Shibinette
Commissioner

Enclosure

Gerald U. Rocha, LCMHC

Education **Master, Community Mental Health Counseling** September 2005
New England College Henniker, NH

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology May 2003
Saint Joseph's College Standish, ME
Major: Psychology ~ Minor: Biology ~ Dean's List Honors

Professional Experience **Seacoast Mental Health Center, Portsmouth, NH** 08/19 – Present
Clinical Manager of Intake

- Responsible for daily operations of all access to care and placement for all clients.
- Oversight of admissions department and intake department, assuring successful operation
- Recruit, train, and supervise all admissions and intake staff.
- Assure all admissions/intake staff are performing tasks in accordance to agency and state regulation.
- Provide regular staff evaluations and assessments according to agency policy
- Crisis management and liaison with emergency services.
- Provide management and oversight of access to services within the agency.
- Responsible for collaboration with external agencies, including but not limited to the Child Advocacy Center, DCYF/DJJS, Area Agencies, PCP offices, and other community mental health agencies.
- Manage utilization of external referral database, Unite Us.
- Participate in multiple weekly agency leadership meetings, providing guidance to agency decision
- Intervene and support arising conflictual issues, assuring they are addressed successfully, as to not implicate the agency.
- Creator and lead facilitator of statewide group among community mental health centers and liaisons, Intake Collaborative.

Easter Seals Inc, Manchester, NH 12/10 – 08/19
Director of Psychological Services

- Support and oversight of residential/educational programs
- Ensure compliance with all federal, state and agency policies and procedures governing the providing of psychological and residential services within the agency programs, including but not limited to CARE, DCYF/DJJS, NH Licensing, NH Certification, and DOE.
- Support, promote and maintain public satisfactory public relations between the different programs within the agency, external programs, funding agencies and the community
- Develop, implement and monitor program budget
- Supervise the use of funds within the residential educational programs
- Provide administrative oversight and direction during crisis management for the residential educational program.
- Responsible for program and staff development

- Recruit, train and supervise residential managers, clinicians, case managers and residential staff
- Maintain on-going communication with family members and collaterals.
- Support and oversee the intake and discharge process for all clients
- Provide regular staff evaluations and assessments according to agency policy
- Ensure that the treatment provided by staff in the various programs is therapeutic and geared to the benefit of our clients and their families
- Ensure that all employees maintain their staff trainings, ensuring that Employee Training Plans are developed and implemented
- Provide on-call coverage
- Establish and maintain relationships with consultants and collaterals
- Conduct quarterly site visits to programs to ensure services are following agency and regulatory requirements
- Participate in NH state initiative, Better Together, developing and implementing state policy and practice regarding parental voice with active DCYF clients.
- Recipient of the NH DCYF Director's Award

Easter Seals Inc, Manchester, NH
Clinician (Master's Level)

10/08 – 12/10

- Responsible for writing the assessment of each youth for the purpose of contributing to the development of individual treatment plans
- Responsible for coordination of all aspects of the treatment plan, as well as the implementation of the treatment plan
- Provide therapeutic treatment of clients and their families in individual, group, and family counseling sessions, at times providing therapeutic services in the family's home
- Develop all monthly reports of each client and coordinate all treatment plan reviews and revisions
- Provide emergency 24-hour on-call services for the clients, family members, and other collaterals
- Provide Mental Health Status Examinations, along with Suicidal/Homicidal Psychological Assessments
- Supervise all residential instructors and unit staff, ensuring that all treatment interventions are being utilized
- Facilitate client-centered conferences, team meetings, agency and staff meetings, and other meetings as requested
- Attend court hearings when required
- Received training and supervision on TF-CBT from TF-CBT specialist Erika Ryan, PhD weekly for one year.
- Provide TF-CBT training to clinicians and case managers bi-weekly
- Provide monthly documentation and family-centered practice training to staff members.

Gateway Healthcare, Pawtucket, RI

10/07 – 10/08

Child and Adolescent Intensive Treatment Clinician (Master's Level)

- Responsible for the coordination and development of all aspects of the individual treatment plans for each client
- Provided community based therapeutic treatment of clients and their families in individual, group, and family counseling sessions
- Provided emergency 24-hour on-call services for the client, family members, and other collaterals
- Facilitated client-centered conferences, team meetings, agency and staff meetings, and other meetings as requested

- Attended weekly staff meetings and supervision sessions

Easter Seals Inc, Manchester, NH

12/06 – 09/07

Clinician (Master's Level)

- Responsible for writing the assessment of each youth for the purpose of contributing to the development of individual treatment plans
- Responsible for coordination of all aspects of the treatment plan, as well as the implementation of the treatment plan
- Provide therapeutic treatment of clients and their families in individual, group, and family counseling sessions, at times providing therapeutic services in the family's home
- Develop all monthly reports of each client and coordinate all treatment plan reviews and revisions
- Provide emergency 24-hour on-call services for the clients, family members, and other collaterals
- Supervise all residential instructors and unit staff, ensuring that all treatment interventions are being utilized
- Facilitate client-centered conferences, team meetings, agency and staff meetings, and other meetings as requested
- Attended court hearings when required

Riverbend Community Mental Health Inc, Concord, NH

1/06 – 5/06

Emergency Services Clinician (Master's Level)

- Provided crisis assessment of specific Emergency Department patients, short term intervention, and facilitated dispositions including admission, transfer or outpatient referral
- Performed suicidal and homicidal psychological assessments in crisis situations
- Took incoming calls through the crisis management hotline
- Interfaced with pre-hospital care providers, law enforcement and behavioral health/public health agencies and hospitals
- Obtained authorization for outpatient and acute inpatient services
- Entered documentation into the TIER system
- Attended weekly staff meetings and court hearings when required

Spaulding Youth Center, Tilton, NH

10/04 – 06/05

Intern Clinician (Master's Level)

- Provided clinical services to youths under supervision
- Parental and school involvement including weekly/monthly meetings discussing youths' treatment
- Additional responsibilities including individual and group counseling, family support services, assessments and evaluations, and transitional planning
- Case management services including CASA, DCYF, and JPPO involvement

New Hampshire Hospital, Concord, NH

01/04 – 10/05

Mental Health Worker (Bachelors Level)

- Provided care for psychiatric patients in an admission unit
- Assisted with the management of agitated patient and distraught families including de-escalation tactics and anger management through verbal communication and physical interventions
- Performed specific emergency care activities as directed by a Registered Nurse
- Evaluated patient progress and shared information through documentation and verbal communication with other care providers in a timely manner