

**Behavioral Health Consultant Job Description**

The Behavioral Health Consultant (BHC) is a member of a fast-paced, innovative Cayuga Integrated Behavioral Health team, which uses blended Primary Care Behavioral Health (PCBH) and Collaborative Care (CoCM) integrated care principles to expand behavioral health care coverage across Cayuga Health System primary care populations. The BHC reports to an Assistant Director within Cayuga Integrated Behavioral Health programming, employed by Cayuga Medical Associates. They work closely with other behavioral health professionals as well as primary care teams to provide carefully coordinated shared-care of patients presenting with mental and behavioral health concerns common to a general medical patient population. The BHC works closely in concert with patients’ medical providers, behavioral health care managers (BHCMs), a psychiatric consultant, and the larger primary care team using standardized tools and evidence-based practices to help meet defined patient care goals. The BHC collaborates with the primary care team to offer brief assessment, management, and referral services for patients with behavioral health needs.

**Job Responsibilities:**

1. Receive warm handoffs from primary care providers (PCPs) for behavioral health concerns requiring additional support in the medical environment.
2. Remain accessible to the medical team for receiving warm handoffs from the primary team throughout working hours when not engaged in direct patient care.
3. Provide brief assessment, diagnosis, and intervention for common mental and behavioral health concerns within the medical practice environment such as sleep disturbances, acute distress, and safety assessment / planning.
4. Screen and assess patients for common mental health and substance abuse disorders, assigning/referring the patient to a Behavioral Health Care Manager/caseload when appropriate per program parameters.
5. Closely coordinate care with patients’ medical providers and, when appropriate, other mental health providers.
6. Facilitate patient engagement and follow-up care.
7. Provide patient education about common mental health and substance abuse disorders and the available treatment options.
8. Support psychotropic medication management as prescribed by medical providers, focusing on treatment adherence monitoring, side effects, and effectiveness of treatment. When necessary, facilitate PCP linkage with the psychiatric consultant.
9. Provide brief behavioral interventions using evidence-based techniques such as behavioral activation, problem-solving treatment, motivational interviewing, or other treatments as appropriate.
10. Provide or facilitate in-clinic or outside referrals to evidence-based psychosocial treatments (e.g. problem-solving treatment or behavioral activation) as clinically indicated.
11. Facilitate referrals for clinically indicated services outside of the organization (e.g., social services such as housing assistance, vocational rehabilitation, mental health specialty care, substance abuse treatment).
12. Complete all required patient care documentation in accordance with professional standards and organizational requirements.
13. Actively and proactively participate in quality-improvement initiatives and organizational working groups as assigned.
14. Once trained and experienced in the care model, assist in training and onboarding new BHPs to the care team.

**Requirements:**

1. Training and licensure in one of the following fields:
* Licensed Clinical Social Worker
* Licensed Psychologist
1. Flexibility to adapt to fast-paced medical environments as a member of a dynamic care team.
2. Demonstrated ability to collaborate and communicate effectively in a team setting.
3. Ability to maintain effective and professional relationships with patients and other members of the care team.
4. Working knowledge of differential diagnosis of common mental health and/or substance abuse disorders, when appropriate.
5. Experience with assessment and treatment planning for common mental health and/or substance use disorders.
6. Working knowledge of evidence-based psychosocial treatments and brief behavioral interventions for common mental and behavioral health disorders, when appropriate (e.g., motivational interviewing, problem-solving treatment, behavioral activation).
7. Basic knowledge of psychopharmacology for common mental health disorders as appropriate for the primary care environment.
8. Ability to effectively engage patients in a therapeutic relationship, when appropriate.
9. Ability to work with patients by telephone/telehealth as well as in person.
10. Familiarity with using electronic medical record systems.
11. Training and/or experience in integrated behavioral health care (especially PCBH) preferred but not required.
12. Training and/or experience in behavioral medicine and health psychology interventions preferred but not required.

**How to apply:**

Please submit a cover letter and resume/curriculum vitae to: