



Job title	<i>Mental Health Counselor</i>
Reports to	<i>Executive Director</i>
Status	<i>Exempt</i>

Job purpose

The Gersh Organization is dedicated to changing the lives of children and young adults on the autism spectrum. Our team of professionals is committed to providing opportunities, inspiration, and guidance for every student to reach their full potential, regardless of the challenges they face. With our family of programs in various locations on Long Island and in Puerto Rico, Gersh is the leading provider of educational and support services for children and young adults on the autism spectrum and their families.

Gersh Academy at Cougar Mountain provides an environment where programs and services are customized around our student's individual needs both inside and outside the classroom. Expanding our program to the Pacific North West and at Cougar Mountain allows for limitless opportunities to use our curriculum and vocational philosophies to create new and exciting experiences that benefit our students, their families and the community.

Gersh Academy at Cougar Mountain is seeking an energetic, nurturing, and confident Mental Health Counselor for our students. This individual will conduct mental health assessments, develop individualized treatment plans, lead individual or group therapy sessions, run preventative mental wellness classes or workshops and make treatment referrals. The ideal candidate will be able to contribute to the development of a healthy, safe, and caring environment by providing emotional and social support to young adults.

Duties and responsibilities

- Develop and implement treatment plans based on clinical experience and knowledge.
- Conduct Cognitive Behavioral Interventions and other treatment modalities based on student needs and IEP goals.
- Conduct individual and group sessions through the school environment.
- Responsible for all counseling mandates and review of evaluations, overall treatment planning for high risk students and immediate mental health concerns.
- Caseload will consist of most behaviorally challenging and students with most significant psychiatric need.
- Modify treatment activities or approaches as needed to comply with changes in students' status.
- Complete student process reports and ongoing treatment benchmarks.
- Develop long-term and short-term intervention plans consistent with curriculum
- Monitors progress and evaluates treatment effectiveness regularly, maintaining high rates of progress.
- Will attend Student Support Meetings, Team Treatment meetings and CSE's as needed.
- Perform crisis interventions with students.
- Use assessment and evaluation results to develop appropriate interventions for students, families, and staff.
- Will advise on any emergency Mental Health Concerns and or Crisis Intervention emergencies.
- If mental health crisis does occur, Mental Health personnel will consult with the Crisis Behavioral Intervention Team, in conjunction with Education and Clinical Administration about next best steps.
- Evaluate overall risk of students in compliance with Crisis Protocol.
- Participate in student conferences, and team meetings with other stakeholders.
- Act as student advocate to coordinate required services or to resolve emergency problems in crisis situations.
- Collaborate with other treatment stakeholders to coordinate best practices for the student.

- Collaborate with other staff members to perform clinical assessments, treatment and behavioral intervention plans.
- Gather information about community mental health needs or resources that could be used in conjunction with therapy and refer students and family members to community resources or to specialists as necessary.
- Develop and implement professional development workshops for school staff and provide parent training.
- Provides supervision to other mental health providers, as well as the practicum and internship program.
- Maintain confidentiality of student records.
- Complete and maintain student-related paperwork, including federal- and state-mandated forms, student diagnostic records, and progress notes.
- Frequent communication with families to assist in overall progress and interventions.
- Maintain knowledge of best practices, professional standards and ethical care.

Qualifications

- Master's in Social Work, Mental Health Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy or Psychology.
- Licensed in Washington, or license eligible in Washington within first month of employment.
- Minimum of one year of relevant experience with youth and or adults on the Autism Spectrum required.
- Extensive knowledge of therapeutic treatment techniques and interventions.
- Must have both strong verbal and written communication skills.

Working conditions

- Occasional before and after work hours at the discretion of the administrative staff
- School environment

Physical requirements

- Must be able to keep student's safe from themselves and others and in some cases may need to implement Crisis Intervention procedures
- Must be able to remove oneself quickly from potentially harmful situations