Associate Director of Mental Health

Position Profile

Prepared by Keeling Associates
Change for Learning

University of Connecticut
Associate Director of Mental Health, UConn Student Health and Wellness
The Opportunity

The University of Connecticut is seeking an Associate Director of Mental Health to join a talented and diverse multidisciplinary team committed to core values of respect, responsiveness, innovation, and quality. This position is multifaceted in scope and function and is designed to work collaboratively with the Director of Mental Health and staff to ensure the effective management and supervision of Mental Health services and operations. UConn is the state’s flagship institution serving over 30,000 students.

This is an exciting role for an innovative and strategic-minded clinician with a strong understanding of and appreciation of the psychological challenges and mental health needs of university students. Under the overall vision of the Student Health and Wellness (SHaW) Executive Leadership Team, the Associate Director works closely with the Director of Mental Health and colleagues to develop and improve administrative systems and set goals and assessment outcomes related to clinical service delivery within a holistic and integrated model of care.

The successful candidate will be an experienced, strategic, and engaged clinician and leader with a strong record of progressive operational, administrative, and supervision experience; possess in-depth knowledge of best practices in college counseling services; have demonstrated expertise in crisis intervention and management; an affinity for working in an interdisciplinary team; and the ability to work collaboratively and effectively in supporting diverse student populations and inclusive programs and services.

Position Summary

The Associate Director of Mental Health, UConn Student Health and Wellness, provides collaborative leadership and administration with an emphasis on strategic oversight of the design and implementation of all aspects of mental health clinical services. Under the general direction of the Director of Mental Health, Student Health and Wellness (SHaW), the Associate Director of Mental Health provides clinical leadership, coordination, and supervision for the mental health clinical operations. This position will function as the leader of the mental health services leadership team and supervises all operations related to mental health in accordance with policies and procedures.
Responsibilities include provision of strategic direction and oversight of clinical services operations, clinical integration and collaboration with SHaW Medical Services and Health Promotion, planning and evaluation of clinical services, staff management and professional development, coordination and provision of clinical services, clinical supervision of mental health treatment providers, and consultation to campus partners.

The Associate Director maintains relationships with local hospital emergency departments, inpatient units and network of community mental health providers, participates on the UConn Care Team, manages the mental health referral process, and participates in continuous quality improvement. In addition to administrative responsibilities, the Associate Director provides assessment and clinical care to a diverse population of undergraduate and graduate students and supervision to clinicians and trainees.

**Duties and Responsibilities**

- Implements an overall clinical services program for mental health and provides oversight for clinical operations ensuring adherence to policies and procedures; supervises staff therapists, front desk office staff, and graduate students in the delivery of their clinical and support duties.

- Assists with developing and maintaining policies and procedures to govern clinical services, ensuring adherence to best clinical practices, applicable state and federal statutes, local health and safety laws and regulations, SHaW risk management policies, and professional codes of ethics. Oversees accreditation processes and ensures compliance with all standards of care required for accreditation.

- Carries a clinical case load; provides counseling to individuals and groups, consults with other professionals as necessary; diagnoses, assesses and treats emotional and functional disorders.

- Assists in the oversight of clinical service programs at the UConn regional campuses.

- Meets regularly with the Director to establish and discuss clinical priorities, budget, personnel/staffing issues, Total Quality Initiatives, mission, vision, and strategic planning; reviews plans for implementation of such.

- Serves on Student Health and Wellness (SHaW) and university committees representing mental health services and applicable policies and procedures to stakeholders and constituencies; responsible for communicating with appropriate university administrators and various mental health and medical professionals in regards to clinical services and/or patient care.
Duties and Responsibilities (continued)

- Responsible for assuring a successful continuity of care program by cultivating and maintaining up-to-date and adequate external referrals.

- Prepares timely narrative and statistical reports (e.g. annual reports and accreditation standards reports) of all activities for use in evaluation of the clinical services program; provides annual update and evaluation of clinical program outcomes; reports regularly to the Director concerning the ongoing progress of the clinical services program; compiles data to analyze and identify risks, trends and gaps in service.

- In the absence of the Director, supervises all operations in accordance with SHaW policies and procedures.

- Conducts workshops and outreach services designed to provide mental health education to students.

- Monitors, evaluates and keeps informed of cutting-edge standards of practice in the university counseling center field and keeps abreast of pertinent regulations, laws, publications, and information; provides comparison analysis to the Director for evaluation.

- As scheduled, provides 24-hour emergency on-call service and crisis intervention counseling for students who have psychiatric emergencies.

- Participates in supervision and training of clinical trainees including doctoral interns, social work interns, and psychology practicum students.

- Performs other related duties as assigned.
Qualifications

Minimum Qualifications

- Doctorate or Master’s degree in Counseling, Clinical Psychology, Social Work or related clinical/counseling specialty from an accredited institution of higher education.
- Licensed or license-eligible in the State of Connecticut.
- A minimum of five years post-graduate clinical work experience.
- Experience in a progressively responsible administrative role that required planning, evaluating, directing the day to day administration of a complex mental health service operation and mental health service staff.
- Demonstrated ability to manage staff and provide clinical supervision at all levels, including trainees. Experience with supervision of clinical staff.
- Demonstrated ability to respond to emergency situations effectively, professionally, appropriately and in a timely manner.
- Demonstrated ability to evaluate treatment programs and conduct independent research.
- Proven track record establishing and maintaining effective work relationships professionally and clinically; excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Demonstrated competence in crisis intervention, assessing need for psychiatric hospitalization, handling psychiatric emergencies, and supervising referral for inpatient care.
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity and inclusion, competence in working with culturally and ethnically diverse populations, and awareness of how issues of difference, power, and privilege manifest in higher education environments.

Preferred Qualifications

- Clinically relevant experience with adolescents and young adults; experience with billing and insurance operations; training and experience in short-term models of treatment; and experience with integrated care models.
About the University of Connecticut

The University of Connecticut, or UConn, is one of the nation’s top 25 public universities. UConn is a Carnegie Foundation Research University-Extensive institution, a Land Grant and Sea Grant college, and member of the Space Grant Consortium. It is the state’s flagship institution of higher education and serves a total enrollment of approximately 32,000 students on the main campus in Storrs in addition to its School of Law, Health Center (Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine), School of Social Work, Business Learning Center, and four regional campuses.

The University is internationally recognized for research in wide-ranging areas, such as additive manufacturing, psychology, gifted and talented education, genomics, human rights, health promotion and disease prevention, visual arts, and linguistics. Connecticut’s commitment to higher education helps UConn attract students who thrive in the most competitive environments, as well as globally renowned faculty members. Through its $1.6B Next Generation Connecticut investment, the State of Connecticut is supporting the transformation of the University of Connecticut into a top public research institution, fueling Connecticut’s economy with new technologies, training highly-skilled graduates, and creating new companies, patents, licenses, and high-wage jobs. As a vibrant, progressive leader, UConn fosters a diverse and dynamic culture that meets the challenges of a changing global society and provides a stimulating and rewarding environment in which to learn, work, and contribute. For more information about UConn, please go to: http://uconn.edu/about-us/

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Application Process

The University of Connecticut has partnered with Keeling & Associates, LLC for this search. Applications should include a resume/curriculum vitae and a cover letter addressing your interest in and qualifications for the position. Application materials must be sent, preferably as PDFs, to recruiting@KeelingAssociates.com with the subject heading “UConn Associate Director MH.” Candidates are encouraged to submit materials by March 2, 2020, and all materials received by that date will receive full consideration. The search will continue until an appointment is made.

Confidential inquiries and nominations should be addressed to Gordon Winsor, Project Director for Executive Search, Keeling & Associates, at gwinsor@KeelingAssociates.com.

All employees are subject to adherence to the State Code of Ethics, which may be found at: http://www.ct.gov/ethics/site/default.asp.

The University of Connecticut is committed to building and supporting a multicultural and diverse community of students, faculty and staff. The diversity of students, faculty and staff continues to increase, as does the number of honors students, valedictorians and salutatorians who consistently make UConn their top choice. More than 100 research centers and institutes serve the University’s teaching, research, diversity, and outreach missions, leading to UConn’s ranking as one of the nation’s top research universities. UConn’s faculty and staff are the critical link to fostering and expanding our vibrant, multicultural and diverse University community. As an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity employer, UConn encourages applications from women, veterans, people with disabilities and members of traditionally underrepresented populations.