JOB DESCRIPTION for BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSULTANT

Job Title: Behavioral Health Consultant in Primary Care

Minimum Required Skills, Knowledge, and Experience

- One of the following:
  - Master’s degree in social work, or related field, with a minimum of two years experience as a therapist and a current license to practice in Pennsylvania as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (or working toward licensure)
  - Doctoral degree in psychology, with a minimum of two years experience as a therapist and a current license to practice in Pennsylvania as a Psychologist (or working toward licensure)
- Competency in providing cognitive and behavioral interventions to individuals, families, couples, and groups with behavioral health/ substance abuse problems in a primary care setting.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work collaboratively with primary care staff, patients and other behavioral health clinicians.

Primary Function

Provide clinical behavioral health services in a manner that upholds the health center’s mission and quality standards and results in better patient health outcomes and overall satisfaction, and stronger operational and fiscal capacity of the health center.

Primary Tasks and Responsibilities

Brief Consultations – Productivity expectation of a trained BHC is an average of 8-10 behavioral health consultations per clinical day, including:

- Individual, couples, and/ or family consultation with patients, including:
  - Functional and strength-based assessment and diagnosis;
  - Psychoeducation for patients and their support systems;
  - Medication adherence counseling and disease self management counseling;
  - Motivational Interviewing to develop behavioral strategies aimed at symptom reduction
  - Brief problem solving cognitive intervention aimed at modifying negative thinking and promoting self efficacy;
  - Self-Care Plan development and skills training to facilitate disease self-management, improved coping, distress tolerance, stress reduction, and relaxation; and
  - Substance use/ abuse evaluation, identification of maladaptive coping strategies, and development of harm reduction strategies.

- Consultation with PCPs to enhance understanding of the patient, provide decision support for treatment planning and assist in the implementation and monitoring of biopsychosocial treatment plans.
**Coordination of Care** – Provide consultation to and coordinate care of patients with health center primary care staff. Identify, refer, and advocate for patients needing specialty behavioral health service, and other services as needed.

**Crisis Intervention** – Be immediately available to the health center staff during working hours in the event of a psychiatric emergency. Participate as a member of the health center staff in the event of any other kind of emergency.

**Charting** – Complete all charting as needed and required by contacted funding sources: including assessments, progress notes, and billing.

**Other Duties:**
- Assist in provider training and education in integrated behavioral health-primary care model
- Participate in behavioral health quality improvement activities
- Participate in local behavior health trainings and conferences