

Substance Abuse Counselor Job Description

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Develop and implement treatment plans to help clients overcome addiction
- Listen and interview clients to identify abuse triggers and suggest ways to suppress an addictive behavior
- Teach patients coping mechanisms and best ways to prevent a relapse
- Liaise with clients' families to develop strategies effective in dealing with addiction problems
- Provide reports to update court on the progress of a treatment
- Lead group therapy sessions for Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) or Narcotics Anonymous (NA)
- Motivate individuals to desist from an addictive behavior and accept treatment
- Assist clients in maintaining, reestablishing, or finding a job
- Help patients setup a support network required in overcoming an addiction
- Track clients' recovery process to identify the need for treatment plan adjustment
- Administer and regulate intake of methadone by heroin addicts
- Teach individuals how to recognize substance abuse in their friends and family
- Hold periodic therapy sessions with clients to prevent recidivism
- Organize campaigns and outreach to educate the public on the ills associated with substance abuse
- Participate in educational workshops to identify new techniques of resolving substance abuse.

Substance Abuse Counselor Requirements – Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities

- Education and Training: To become a counselor on substance abuse, you require a Bachelor's degree in psychology or sociology, or in a related discipline. Some employers may require substance abuse counselors to have a Master's degree in any of the aforementioned fields. These counselors are required to pass licensing exam in order to obtain licensure for practice
- Compassion: Counselors are empathic towards individuals dealing with alcohol or drug addiction problem
- Listening Skills: They pay attention to clients' complaints during therapy sessions in order to identify abuse triggers
- Communication Skill: They are adept at interacting with clients to proffer recommendations useful in addressing dependency issues.