Community Behavioral Health Medical Director

Job Announcement

Please submit all resumes and inquiries to Kristosser.A.Jernighan@tn.gov

Organization Description

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) is charged with planning for and promoting a comprehensive array of quality prevention and early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, and recovery support services for Tennesseans living with mental illness and substance abuse issues. The Department also provides system planning; monitoring, licensing, evaluation, and sets policy and quality standards. Moreover, TDMHSAS collaborates with other state and community agencies and works to educate the community about mental health and substance abuse services.

TDMHSAS contracts with mental health and substance abuse community providers across the state and operates four Regional Mental Health Institutes to offer services to Tennesseans. The Department manages a budget of more the $418 million, with funding from dedicated fees, revenue, federal grants, and state general fund appropriations.

Summary of Position and Essential Functions

TDMHSAS located in Nashville, Tennessee is seeking a transformative physician to work with local hospitals, emergency departments, community behavioral health providers, and other key stakeholders and partners to help support clinical innovation on a system level, resolve clinical issues, and to provide cutting-edge technical assistance and training related to providing on-site treatment services in the emergency room environment. As the senior clinical leader for TDMHSAS community-based services, he/she will provide counsel to the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner of Community Behavioral Health Programs, Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Mental Health Services, and the Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Substance Abuse Services related to a wide range of clinically-related policy, programmatic, and strategic issues.

The essential functions of the Community Behavioral Health Medical Director include:

- Exclusively during the first year, collaborate with emergency department physicians across the state to connect people experiencing a behavioral health crisis with local community providers thereby decreasing the number of inappropriate referrals for psychiatric hospitalization. Provide implementation support for emergency department psychiatric protocols developed in partnership with the Tennessee Hospital Association which supports aforementioned decreased referrals to inpatient hospitalization and increased connections to community-based treatment, resources, and support.
- Working intimately with contracted community providers and targeted emergency rooms throughout the state in advancing standards of care on both clinical and programmatic levels. Examples include expanding the implementation of treatment protocols in the emergency department environment, providing individualized training on modalities such as medication assisted treatment (MAT), supporting efforts related to crisis response, crisis management, and
the utilization of telehealth, as well as ensuring accessible and effective community-based behavioral health services throughout the TDMHSAS provider network.

- Assisting with developing statewide clinical policies, procedures, and protocols related to community behavioral health, as well as provide consultation regarding difficult cases, situations, or special populations such as individuals with co-occurring disorders, dual-diagnoses, and youth and young adult programming.
- Providing linkages to professional and academic communities and play a key role in developing, implementing, and evaluating new programs and delivery systems within the community setting.
- Traveling to locations throughout the State to meet with providers on clinical and quality issues.
- Presenting to providers, stakeholders and consumers on topics related to mental health and substance abuse issues in both large and small group settings.
- Representing DMHSAS on inter-agency committees, work groups, and strategic initiative groups to include in person attendance and participation.
- Serving as an active member of the Commissioners Executive Leadership Team.

**Qualifications and Core Competencies**

- Currently licensed by the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners or the Tennessee Board of Osteopathic Examination or eligible to become licensed within six (6) months of date of employment
- Specialty in Psychiatry (preferred), Internal Medicine, or Family Medicine. Other disciplines considered.
- Certification in addiction medicine and direct experience providing community-based behavioral health care (highly preferred)
- Knowledge of emergency department culture
- Ability to do research as well as publish scholarly articles
- Ability to influence, inspire, and motivate others and possesses a proven leadership track record
- Public speaking and previous training/teaching experience
- Travel required (50%-70%)

**Benefits**

Benefits include: State Hybrid Pension Plan, 401K and 457 (Deferred Compensation), 11 paid Holidays, Annual, Bereavement, Military, Family Medical, Maternity, Sick Leave, Sick Leave Bank, Flexible Benefits. Insurance is available including Health, Dental, Life, and Vision.

*Pre-employment criminal background check is required.*

**Pursuant to the State of Tennessee’s Workplace Discrimination and Harassment policy, the State is firmly committed to the principle of fair and equal employment opportunities for its citizens and strives to protect the rights and opportunities of all people to seek, obtain, and hold employment without being subjected to illegal discrimination and harassment in the workplace. It is the State’s policy to provide an**
environment free of discrimination and harassment of an individual because of that person’s race, color, national origin, age (40 and over), sex, pregnancy, religion, creed, disability, veteran’s status or any other category protected by state and/or federal civil rights laws.