



STAIR for Adults Released from Jail in Seminole County

Research & Assessment Specialist Position

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Nearly 96% of incarcerated men and women report at least one lifetime traumatic experience with most reporting an average of three lifetime traumatic experiences. Left untreated, trauma symptoms can increase the likelihood of future behavioral health problems and entanglement in the criminal justice system.

In a new innovative approach to responding to traumatic experiences, the James E. Polk Correctional Facility is partnering with the Institute for Justice Research and Development (IJRD) to implement trauma-informed treatment designed for incarcerated individuals preparing for release from jail. The trauma treatment, Skills Training for Affective and Interpersonal Regulation (STAIR) will be delivered in individual and group-based therapy sessions in jail as well as in community settings.

The implementation of STAIR includes the delivery of services as well as a research study to assess the feasibility and impact of STAIR on a variety of recipient outcomes. Therefore, we are hiring two part-time positions – one position (i.e., Trauma Informed Care Practitioner) that will be responsible for delivering treatment to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated men and women; and the other position who will be responsible for enrolling participants into the study and conducted data collection interviews before and after the intervention in jail and community settings.

POSITION SUMMARY:

The Research & Assessment Specialist interviews inmates and those recently released from the John E. Polk Correctional Facility who are part of the STAIR program in the facility. This person will be responsible for administering informed consent to prisoners, conducting face-to-face computer assisted personal interviews with study participants to administer behavioral health measures and clinical assessments; tracking and maintaining contact with study participants for the purpose of interviewing them after they complete the intervention; and carrying out all phases of study protocol as required by the Florida State University Institutional Review Board to ensure compliance with protection of human subjects.

PRIMARY DUTIES:

1. Recruit and enroll study participants; confer with participants to explain purpose of study and obtain informed consent; administer computer assisted personal interviews of behavioral health measures and clinical assessments both within and outside of jails.
2. Collaborate with corrections and other professional staff pre-and post-release in the evaluation of participant's progress.
3. Closely track and maintain contact with study participants once they are released from jail, to ensure that follow-up interviews can be completed.
4. Ensure compliance with protocol guidelines and requirements of the Florida State University Institutional Review Board; identify problems and/or inconsistencies with data collection; and monitor study participant's progress to include documentation and reporting of adverse events.
5. Maintain appropriate recordkeeping and organization of all interview data, including data entry.

6. May need to work evenings and weekends.
7. Perform other duties incidental to the work described herein.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelors degree required in social work, psychology, or related counseling field.
- Must have ability to adapt to flexible hours, and be available to work some evenings and weekends.
- Must be able to work independently while collaborating with a larger team.
- Must be eligible to pass and maintain security clearance in order to conduct interviews in jails.
- Must have valid driver's license, reliable vehicle, and current auto insurance.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Prior primary data collection on other research projects.
- Prior experience conducting mental health and substance use disorder clinical assessments.
- Working knowledge of computer programs and systems, such as computer assisted personal interview software.
- Excellent communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills.
- Experience working with a criminal justice population.
- Ability to engage effectively with both participants and colleagues through verbal and written communication
- Skilled in writing and maintaining computer-based participant records in an accurate and timely manner
- Ability to respond to crisis situations and psychiatric emergencies utilizing appropriate crisis response techniques
- Highly organized, self-starter with good interpersonal, problem-solving, and analytical skills

HOURS: 15-20 hours per week

LOCATION: home office + travel to study site locations

CONTACTS: To apply for this position, please email Kerensa Lockwood at klockwood@fsu.edu. Please include a cover letter, resume, and the contact information of three references.