Date Posted: 06/23/2015

Job Title: Licensed Social Worker (LSW)

Closing Date/Time: Tuesday 07/14/2015, 11:59 PM Mountain Time

Location: Greeley, Colorado

Starting Salary: LSW $3,892 Monthly; LCSW $4,040 Monthly

Job Type: Full Time

How to Apply: Submit resume and cover letter to the attention of Frances Smylie Brown, General Counsel, and submit via e-mail to: Candace.Gonzales@coloradodefenders.us

Department Contact Information: Candace.Gonzales@coloradodefenders.us

Type of Announcement: This announcement is not governed by the selection processes of the classified personnel system. Applications will be considered from residents and non-residents of Colorado.

OFFICE OF THE COLORADO STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

Colorado’s Office of the State Public Defender (OSPD) maintains a reputation as one of the top organizations in the nation specializing in the delivery of indigent criminal defense representation. It operates as an independent agency within the Judicial Branch of Colorado State Government with approximately 760 dedicated and zealous individuals assigned to twenty-one Regional Trial Offices across the state, an Appellate Division, and a centralized Administrative Office.

Mission:
The constitutions of Colorado and of the United States establish the right to counsel. The single overriding objective of the Office of the State Public Defender is to provide zealous and effective criminal defense representation for our clients and fulfill this constitutional requirement.

Our desire is to hire professionals who consistently demonstrate integrity, embrace change and improvement, have a dedication to public service, and who will work to continually raise the bar of the OSPD’s performance.

DESCRIPTION OF THE JOB:
Public Defender Social Workers serve as part of the juvenile defense team and, as such, are bound by the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct including rules regarding the attorney-client privilege and client confidentiality. Public Defender Social Workers perform duties and assume responsibility for case assignments under the specific direction, instruction and guidance of the juvenile defense attorney. This position will be located in the Public Defender’s Regional Office in Greeley, Colorado.
This is a Licensed Social Worker (LSW) position, which requires the application of fundamental theories of psychosocial variables to assist in identifying the presence of physical or mental health impairments, substance abuse issues, family or other social history patterns that impact the juvenile’s behavior and development. Under the direction of the defense attorney, these Social Workers conduct assessments and compile psychosocial histories to develop recommendations for appropriate pretrial release, detention, treatment options, conditions of probation or diversion and sentencing and post-sentencing options, if adjudicated.

An example of primary duties and responsibilities include:

- Conducts assessments concerning pretrial release, detention, case preparation, alternative placements and treatment options.
- Conducts assessments including, but not limited to, mental health assessments to identify physical or mental health issues, substance abuse or other patterns potentially influencing the juvenile’s development, personality or behavior.
- Collects social and family history information to identify psychosocial influences and patterns in the juvenile’s development and behavior including, but not limited to, socio/cultural/economic status, gang involvement and gender issues.
- Conducts interviews with the juvenile, family members, friends and others to elicit family and social history data, including sensitive and confidential information.
- Participates in pretrial, adjudication and sentencing hearings as requested by the defense attorney; prepares reports and provides information and support, as required.
- Keeps current on statewide resources available and relevant to the individual needs of the juvenile.
- At the direction of the defense attorney, obtains and reviews records, evaluations or reports and analyzes the significance of information relevant to the juvenile’s case and circumstances. Documents and organizes digital and physical files of information collected.
- May assist the defense attorney in locating medical or mental health experts, exchanging relevant information and interpreting evaluation findings.
- May supervise and mentor student interns enrolled in a graduate-level social work education program.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Required Education and Experience:
Master’s degree from an accredited college or university educational program in social work; and, licensure to practice social work (LSW) or willingness and ability to obtain licensure within 90 days of employment.

Conditions of Employment:
- Valid driver’s license and access to a working vehicle;
- Willing to work non-traditional hours;
- Willing to travel both within and outside the State of Colorado as duties require.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:
- Understanding of the fundamentals of evidence-based theory and practice;
- Understanding of the professional and constitutional ethics principles and practices including client confidentiality and attorney-client privilege;
- Ability to apply the theories of social work practice;
- Ability to assess implications of physical, mental health, or substance abuse issues on development and behavior in juveniles;
- Ability to establish effective working relationships with juvenile clients and their families, witnesses, court personnel, mental health experts, coworkers, peers, and persons of diverse backgrounds;
- Ability to process and retain large amounts of information, manage a caseload and meet deadlines;
- Effective communication, verbal and written, including interviewing and report-writing skills;
- Proficient in standard software applications such as Word, Excel, Power Point, internet, e-mail, and audio/visual software and equipment.
- All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply but bilingual, Spanish speakers are preferred.
HOW TO APPLY
Qualified and interested individuals must submit a detailed resume and cover letter addressing how you meet the minimum qualifications for the position by July 14, 2015, to:

Frances Smylie Brown
General Counsel
E-mail: Candace.Gonzales@coloradodefenders.us

In order to be considered for this position, your resume and cover letter should include:

- A current email address and phone number; primary communication pertaining to this position will be electronic based.
- A detailed outline of your qualifications for this position.
- A brief highlight of your interest in this position and employment with the Colorado State Public Defender.
- A State of Colorado Application is not required for this position.

Interviews will commence following an assessment and selection of the top qualified candidates.

BENEFITS
As an employer with the State of Colorado, State Public Defender employees are eligible for the State’s employee benefits. For a summary of health, dental, life and retirement benefits please visit: Benefits | DHR.

NON-DISCRIMINATION
The Office of the Colorado State Public Defender is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, political affiliation or religion; nor does it discriminate against a qualified applicant or employee with a disability capable of performing the duties of his or her position.