

HEAD START THERAPEUTIC COUNSELOR

SCOPE OF WORK

The purpose of the Therapeutic Counselor is to provide mental health strategies and therapeutic support to children experiencing difficulties in mental wellness and those lacking skills in self-regulation in the Head Start classroom.

Duties of Counselor:

- **Assist with behavior management in classroom, using principles of Conscious Discipline and research-based behavior management practices**
- **Facilitation of individual and group counseling**
- **Consistent modeling of appropriate adult behaviors and interactions with young children**
- **Collaboration with program staff and families to meet children's needs, even during breaks from the program year**
- **Assist in identifying children at-risk for being removed from classrooms due to behavioral, social and emotional issues**
- **Make regular observations within the classroom to assess the needs of identified children. Complete DECA-C for all children identified as part of "caseload"**
- **Meet with parents of referred children to conduct a formal interview & intake**
- **Meet regularly with program staff to discuss treatment plans of identified children**
- **Provide psychoeducation sessions with parents, teachers, Coordinators, and Area Supervisors focusing on parenting skills and classroom behavioral management**
- **Make referrals to outside sources for psychiatric care for children when indicated**
- **Support the family during the child's transition from Head Start into Kindergarten and attend IEP meetings when possible**

Projected Number of Children on Caseload: 12 – 15

Propose to serve approximately 20-30 children in the program year, depending on severity of child's needs.