A. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF AGENCY SETTING

“Riverhouse” is the name retained by staff and clients from the previous location of Adult Day Treatment Services. We moved to a new campus in April 2001. There are four separate buildings on campus: Turning Point (Chemical Dependency Treatment); Share House (24/7 – Chemical Dependency Treatment); Children’s Services at Child and Family Services Building; and Adult Services (case management services and Day Treatment Services for Adults with mental illness).

B. DESCRIPTION OF CLIENT GROUP

We serve adults (18 yrs. and older) with severe and persistent mental illness, which has become disabling in one or more major areas of life. This can result in loss of jobs or careers, social isolation, impaired reasoning and inability to maintain meaningful structure without assistance. Clients come from all walks of life and professions. We provide opportunities for emotional connection and support, structured activities, psychosocial education, skill building, and pre-vocational skills.

C. LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Team building among staff of Day Treatment and the Mental Health Center
- Latest practical information on mental illness diagnosis, symptoms, treatment resources
- Ability to relate effectively with consumer staff as well as mental health professionals, therapists, and psychiatrists
- Effective group facilitation for various psycho educational groups, skills groups, support groups, and for MSW’s – therapy groups, anxiety and anger management, de-escalation and crisis management skills, etc.
- Day Treatment Program is facility based, so the majority of the time with clients is onsite at River House on Mondays-Fridays from 8am to 3pm. We do have several off site activities or outings each week that are supervised by staff using one of our center vans for client transportation. These outings begin and end on site.

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D. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

- Reliable, flexible, responsible, willing and eager to learn and utilize new information/skills. Strict adherence to principles of confidentiality.
- Ability to set aside any preconceptions about mental illness and to relate to clients in a way that displays respect, dignity, and inclusion (open mind & open heart).
- Completion of training in de-escalation, suicide prevention, risk assessment skills, and crisis resolution.