

Title 9. Rehabilitative and Developmental Services

Division 1. Department of Mental Health

Article 8. Professional and Technical Personnel Standards

§ 620. Director of Local Mental Health Services.

Where the Local Mental Health Director is other than the local health officer or medical administrator of the county hospital, he or she shall be one of the following:

(a) A physician and surgeon licensed in the State of California showing evidence of having completed the required course of graduate psychiatric education as defined in Section 623 to be supplemented by an additional period of two years of training or practice limited to the field of psychiatry, one year of which shall have been administrative experience.

(b) A psychologist who shall be licensed in the State of California and shall possess a doctorate degree in psychology from an institution of higher education. In addition, the psychologist shall have had at least three years of acceptable clinical psychology experience, two years of which shall be administrative experience.

(c) A clinical social worker who shall possess a master's degree in social work or higher and shall be a licensed clinical social worker under provisions of the California Business and Professions Code, and shall have had at least five years mental health experience, two years of which shall have been administrative experience.

(d) A marriage, family, and child counselor who shall have a master's degree in an approved behavioral science course of study, and who shall be a licensed marriage, family, and child counselor and have received specific instruction, or its equivalent, as required for licensure on January 1, 1981. In addition, the marriage, family, and child counselor shall have had at least five years of mental health experience, two years of which shall have been administrative experience. The term, specific instruction, contained in Sections 5751 and 5751.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, shall not be limited to school, college, or university classroom instruction, but may include equivalent demonstrated experience in assessment, diagnosis, prognosis, and counseling, and psychotherapeutic treatment of premarital, marriage, family, and child relationship dysfunctions.

(e) A nurse who shall possess a master's degree in psychiatric or public health nursing and shall be licensed as a registered nurse by the Board of Registered Nursing in the State of California, and shall have had at least five years mental health experience, two of which shall have been administrative experience. Additional post-baccalaureate experience in a mental health setting may be substituted on a year-for-year basis for the educational requirements.

(f) An administrator who shall have a master's degree in hospital administration, public health administration, or public administration from an accredited college or university, and who shall have at least three years experience in hospital or health care administration, two of which shall have been in the mental health field. Additional qualifying experience may be substituted for the required education on a year-for-year basis with the approval of the Department of Mental Health. NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 5600.5 and 5751, Welfare and Institutions Code. Reference: Sections 5607, 5751, 5751.1 and 5751.3, Welfare and Institutions Code.

§ 620.1. Acting Director of Local Mental Health Services

If a county is unable to secure the services of a person who meets the standards set forth in Section 620, the county may select an Acting Director of Local Mental Health Services with appointment limited to a 12-month period subject to the approval of the Director of the state Department of Mental Health. NOTE: Authority cited: Section 5751, Welfare and Institutions Code. Reference: Sections 5751 and 5751.1, Welfare and Institutions Code.

§ 621. Medical Program Responsibility

If the Local Director does not meet the qualifications of Section 620 (a), the local mental health service shall provide a psychiatrist licensed to practice medicine in this State as defined in Section 623 who shall have the medical responsibility as defined in Section 522.