

Hazardous Position High Risk, High Stress



Anthony Castaneda, Political and Policy Strategist, SEIU Local 503
Odalis Aguilar Aguilar, Political Coordinator, Oregon AFSCME

By the Numbers: 3,200

SEIU

Represents 2,000 employees at the state hospital

Represents over 80 classifications in the hospital

- Mental Health Therapist

- Mental Health Security Technician

- Licensed Practical Nurse

AFSCME

Represents 900 911 operators

Represents roughly 300 doctors and nurses

Hazardous Position Definition

(X)(a) “Hazardous position” means a position that does not meet the definition of a qualified public safety employee under section 72(t)(10)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code, but that:

(A) Requires the person holding the position to work with or manage emergency or traumatic events in the regular course of work; or

(B) Carries a high risk of physical harm.

(b) “Hazardous position” includes and is limited to:

(A) Employees of the Oregon State Hospital who have direct contact with patients;

(B) Telecommunicators, as defined in ORS 181A.355.

Hazardous Position Definition

(A) Employees of the Oregon State Hospital who have direct contact with patients; and “Direct contact with patients” applies to employees who qualify for one or more of the following:

- (a) Assigned to a unit/secure area with patients
- (b) Having direct care or charge of patients
- (c) Having regular interaction & responsibility for patients
- (d) Non-strikeable employees

Classification working with Patients

Examples include:

- Mental Health Therapist
- Mental Health Therapist Tech
- Mental Health Security Technician
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Psychiatric Social Worker
- Mental Health Registered Nurse
- Physicians/Psychiatrist

Example: Mental Health Therapist

Employees in this class work under the supervision of professional staff to design, teach and evaluate classes in a treatment specialty area such as criminality or addiction and/or provide behavioral therapy to patients. In addition, employees in this class participate in the basic care and treatment of, and provide security and escort services for patients and contribute to the general therapeutic atmosphere of the work unit.

Example: Mental Health Security Technician

Employees in this class provide and enforce fire, safety, security, and other support services for the Oregon State Hospital (OSH) campuses. Positions maintain order and supervise the conduct of patients and adults in custody (AIC) to support the delivery of treatment plans and activities and to protect and maintain the safety of persons and property.

Example: Nurse

Nurses at the State Hospital provide medical and psychiatric care and treatment for patients. Because they fulfill unique roles in patient care, they are given the time, space and resources to foster trusting relationships with the patients they serve.

Depending on their position, they will address the needs of patients with persistent and challenging mental illness, respond to behavioral emergencies, perform lab draws and facilitate wellness groups with the goal of providing a safe and secure therapeutic environment.

Example: Psychiatrists

Provide psychiatric and medical services to assigned patients. This includes (but is not limited to) diagnosis, mental status evaluation, pharmacologic management, risk assessment and use of physical examination, laboratory, imaging and other discipline assessments as necessary

Conduct meetings of the ward Treatment Team and prepare individual patient treatment plans including providing clinical leadership in the implementation of services.

Thank you