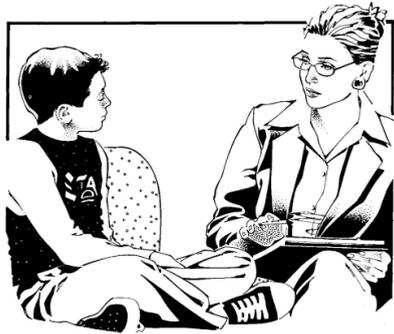


Career PROFILE

This information is derived from careful research and ongoing feedback from Lorain County employers. Empowered with this knowledge, it is up to all of us to create a vibrant and productive workforce for the county.

Do You Like...

- Communicating with others, giving advice, and promoting learning and personal development
- Assisting and helping people rather than working with objects, machines, or data
- Work that lets you be of service to others
- Doing things on your own initiative
- Work where you can see the results of your efforts and have a feeling of accomplishment



Occupational Information Network, O*NET OnLine, <http://online.onetcenter.org/>

Expectations & Opportunities

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

- Medical and Public Health Social Workers
- Child, Family, and School Social Workers
- Mental Health Counselors
- Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselors
- Rehabilitation Counselors
- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Health Educators
- Educational, Vocational, and School Counselors

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Research, Assessment and Accountability

Kind of Work You Can Expect

- Counsels clients in individual and group sessions to assist them in dealing with substance abuse, mental and physical illness, poverty, unemployment, or physical abuse.
- Interviews clients, reviews records, and confers with other professionals to evaluate mental or physical condition of client or patient.
- Plans and conducts programs to prevent substance abuse, to combat social problems, or to improve health and counseling services in community.
- Counsels and aids family members to assist them in understanding, dealing with, and supporting the client or patient.
- Monitors, evaluates, and records client progress with respect to treatment goals.
- Modifies treatment plans according to changes in client status.
- Refers patient, client, or family to community resources for housing or treatment to assist in recovery from mental or physical illness, following through to ensure service efficacy.
- Collaborates with counselors, physicians, and nurses to plan and coordinate treatment, drawing on social work experience and patient needs.

Occupational Information Network, O*NET OnLine, <http://online.onetcenter.org/>



position with the agency and became a chemical dependency worker a short time later. "Back then I was very green, but I learned very quickly and became a counselor."

Since then she has taken on the administrative duties as director of women's services, which includes overseeing a staff of 16

outreach workers, grant writing and working on the state level activities. "I am in Columbus twice monthly and the grant writing is an absolute necessity to make sure we keep money coming in so we can continue to operate."

But the work a social worker provides, and the successes that are attainable, are what keeps her coming back to her desk every day. However, the problems of alcohol or drug abuse are always complicated, Rodriguez said.

"It's not only drugs or alcohol, it's also various barriers to success including the lack of employment, housing, or education, and/or relationship problems with children and adults. Most of the women we see

Technical Skills and Knowledge You Will Need to Develop

Social Work:

- Have knowledge in the practice of social welfare administration and counseling and can provide basic support services for vulnerable individuals and groups. Knowledge in social welfare policy; case work planning; social counseling and intervention strategies; administrative procedures and regulations; and specific applications in areas such as child welfare and family services, probation, employment services, and disability counseling.

Counseling Psychology:

- Knowledge in counseling theory, therapeutic intervention strategies, patient-counselor relationships, assessment methods and procedures, group therapy, family therapy, child and adolescent therapy, supervised counseling practice, ethical standards, and applicable regulations.

Alcohol/Drug Abuse:

- Can counsel drug users, addicts, family members, and associates in a wide variety of settings, using various preventive strategies and treatment regimens. Knowledge in outreach, patient education, therapeutic intervention methods, diagnostic procedures, addiction symptomology, record-keeping, liaison with community health and social services, law enforcement and legal services, and applicable regulations.

Therapy and Counseling:

- Knowledge of principles, methods, and procedures for diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of physical and mental dysfunctions, and for career counseling and guidance.

Customer and Personal Service:

- Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services, including customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.

English Language:

- Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.

Occupational Information Network, O*NET OnLine, <http://online.onetcenter.org/>

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers

The rewards in being a licensed social worker is seeing other people succeed, according to Helen Rodriguez, the director of Women's Services at the Lorain County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services agency.

"Success is seeing the women who do recover come back to let us know how they're doing, where they're working, going to school and staying sober," she said. "They have learned to live life on a different level."

Counseling women with drug or alcohol problems requires that Rodriguez get very personal with them. The struggles of alcohol abuse are something she knows of, and is what eventually led her to the work she does.

"My husband was an alcoholic," she said. "That's how I got involved in the first place. That was back in 1984."

She's been with LCADA since the 1980s after she applied for a bilingual clinician's

have children and they need to be helped also."

LCADA provides housing assistance for recovering adults and families, and also provides educational services for clients seeking GED and furthering their educations beyond the high school level. "It's definitely a people-person's profession," Rodriguez said, "and anyone considering a career as a social worker needs to have an endless well of patience and perseverance."



Helen Rodriguez, director of Women's Services at the Lorain County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services agency.

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"It's definitely a people person's profession, and anyone considering a career as a social worker needs to have an endless well of patience and perseverance."
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"There's always some type of cajoling and a lot of times you have to work very hard to help a client overcome the denial many (clients) have about a drug or alcohol problem," she said.

"Breaking through a customer's denial can be

very challenging. Thirty to 40 percent of clients are referred by legal (circumstances). They're here because there's that (legal) leverage as someone pushing them to do this."

Rodriguez, who attended Youngstown State University and has a state social worker's license, said a good way for anyone to determine whether a social worker's career could be a good fit is to volunteer at an agency like LCADA or other treatment or recovery services.

STEPS TO SUCCESS

Minimum Education

A bachelor's degree in social work (BSW) is the most common requirement for entry into the field; however, an advanced degree has become the standard for many positions.

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2006-07 Edition

Educational/Training Level

Educational Level Attained	Percentage of Respondents
High School or less	8%
Some College	18%
Bachelor's Degree or higher	74%

Occupational Information Network, O*NET OnLine, <http://online.onetcenter.org/>

Basic or Core Abilities You Will Need

Basic Skill Requirements



Interpersonal Skills:

Teamwork Skills: Develop cooperative and constructive working relationships with other workers. Organize and perform tasks in a way that will help accomplish team goals efficiently and effectively.

Customer Service Orientation: Can effectively answer customers' questions and quickly resolve problems. Provide assistance and advice to customers when requested.

Respects Diversity: Demonstrate sensitivity and respect for differences in individual perspective, personality, ethnic/cultural values, and religious beliefs.

Thinking Skills:

Decision Making: Combine, evaluate, and logically organize information to make decisions. Consider the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches and make decisions based on all available information.

Problem Solving: Ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. Be able to identify the nature of problems and resolve conflicts quickly.

Good Judgement: Evaluate information against a set of standards. Weigh the relative costs and benefits of a potential action and make the best choice.

Occupational Information Network, O*NET OnLine, <http://online.onetcenter.org/>

Earning Potential

National	\$36,620/yr. (\$17.61/hr.)
Ohio	\$35,630/yr. (\$17.13/hr.)
Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria PMSA	\$37,450/yr. (\$18.01/hr.)

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, November 2004 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, November 2004 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, November 2004 Metropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates

To find past profile pages visit www.chroniclet.com, click on: Newspaper in Education and then click on career pages.

Career Profile Coming Next Tuesday (Feb. 7, 2006):
HEALTH - Pharmacist

Training Opportunities

LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Associates Degree Program in Human Services
Bachelor and Masters Degree Programs through the University Partnership with Youngstown State
1-800-995-LCCC
www.lorainccc.edu

Job Openings

Strong demand is expected for substance abuse social workers through 2014. Substance abusers are increasingly being placed into treatment programs instead of being sentenced to prison. Correctional systems are increasingly requiring substance abuse treatment as a condition added to their sentencing or probation.

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2006-07 Edition

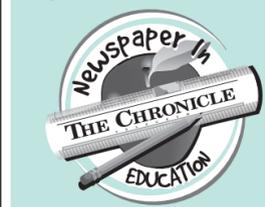
Job Openings	2004 Annual Employment	2014 Projected Employment	Change in Employment 2004-2014	Percent Change 2004-2014	Total Job Openings Due to Growth & Turnover 2004-2014
NATIONAL	116,000	147,000	31,000	26.7 %	51,000
OHIO	5,990	8,040	2,050	34.2 %	3,080
REGION	960	1,290	330	34.4 %	490

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Projections to 2014

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Research, Assessment and Accountability, Ohio Job Outlook to 2012

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Research, Assessment and Accountability, Job Outlook to 2012: Northern Ohio - Economic Development Region 8 (Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Lorain Counties)

Sponsors:



Occupational Information Network, O*NET OnLine, <http://online.onetcenter.org/>