

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH NURSE

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves providing nursing services to mental health clients in a community setting. Incumbents coordinate their activities with other mental health professionals in order to provide clients with support services necessary to continue their residence in the community. The Community Mental Health Nurse also instructs clients in basic life skills and conducts health care in-service training programs for care providers. Duties are performed under general supervision with considerable leeway allowed for the use of independent judgement in providing care for clients. Supervision may be exercised over the work of subordinate employees. A Community Mental Health Nurse does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

- Interviews clients and visits their homes to observe their progress in community living;
- Observes behavior noting any evident symptoms and evaluates a client's success in coping with their mental illness;
- Instructs persons in proper administration of their prescribed medication and inquires as to any side effects;
- Refers clients to their physicians when necessary;
- Advises patients, family, and treatment team members of the symptoms of the patient's illness and explains prescribed treatment;
- Coordinates delivery of services to clients by county mental health agencies and other community organizations;
- Responds to psychiatric emergencies and aids police agencies, hospitals, and/or social service agencies in resolving the crisis;
- Conducts in-service training programs for personnel and may participate in training programs conducted by other community mental health organizations.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Good knowledge of the principles and practices of psychiatric nursing; good knowledge of the symptoms of various forms of mental illness; good knowledge of the services available from the Cattaraugus County Mental Health agency and other community service organizations; good knowledge of interviewing techniques; skill in the application of psychiatric nursing techniques; ability to instruct patients and staff in a variety of health care subjects; ability to establish and maintain an effective relationship with clients; ability to work effectively with public and private agencies and with the general public; ability to present oral and written comments and opinions clearly and concisely; ability to understand and follow complex oral and written instructions; ability to plan and supervise the work of others; ability to operate a motor vehicle when required; initiative and resourcefulness; tact and courtesy; empathy toward the mentally ill and their families; integrity; physical condition equal to the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Possession of a license and current registration to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse in New York State and either:

A) Possession of a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, or a health or human services field;

OR

B) Two (2) years of psychiatric nursing experience.

NOTE: Your degree must have been awarded by a college or university accredited by a regional, national, or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education/U.S. Secretary of Education. If your degree was awarded by an educational institution outside the United States and its territories, you must provide independent verification of equivalency. A list of acceptable companies who provide this service can be found on the New York State Civil Service website. You must pay the required evaluation fee.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: At time of appointment, must possess and maintain a valid Driver's License to operate a motor vehicle in New York State.

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE

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