

PSYCHIATRIC NURSE

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is professional work involving the provision of psychiatric nursing care as part of an interdisciplinary mental health treatment team. The duties are performed under the general supervision of a Unit Leader in collaboration with a staff psychiatrist. Considerable leeway is allowed for the use of professional judgment in carrying out the details of the work. The work is performed in the client's home as well as at the central mental health facility. Supervision is exercised over the work of paraprofessionals and student nurses. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: The typical work activities listed below, while providing representative examples of the variety of work assignments in the title do not describe any individual position. Incumbents in this title may perform some or all of the following, as well as other related activities not described.

Provides professional psychiatric nursing services to clients and their families for the treatment and prevention of mental and physical illness;

Provides individual and group therapy;

Visits clients' homes and assesses the physical and social environment and identifies those factors which may contribute to the client's disability;

Administers physical examinations and internal medication on orders from a physician;

Advises the client and his family on methods of dealing with preventing or correcting emergencies and on the availability of medical, social and housing facilities within the community;

Intervenes in crisis situations and provides emergency on the spot treatment;

Maintains close contact with community agencies in order to ensure their cooperation in providing services to clients;

Participates in in-service training programs;

Participates in interdisciplinary team meetings, providing information on client condition and suggesting treatment plans and alternatives;

Consults with community agencies on how their programs and facilities may best be utilized to provide more effective service to clients;

Operates a motor vehicle in making regular and emergency visits to client's homes.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of psychiatric nursing; good knowledge of community resources and facilities available to the physically and mentally ill, skill in the application of psychiatric nursing techniques; ability to establish

effective and harmonious relationships with clients, their families and fellow members of the interdisciplinary team; ability to supervise the work of others; ability to understand and carry out complex oral and written medical instructions; ability to remain calm and work effectively under emergency conditions; willingness to travel to clients' homes at unusual hours to provide needed care; sound professional judgment; tact; dependability; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Either:

- A. Current licensure as a Registered Professional Nurse by the New York State Department of Education and graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a masters degree including one year of clinical practicum or one year of post-degree professional nursing experience in mental health or psychiatric nursing in a position involving direct service to clients; **OR**
- B. Current licensure as a Registered Professional Nurse by the New York State Department of Education and graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and three (3) years of post-degree professional nursing experience in mental health or psychiatric nursing in a position involving direct service to clients.

Special Requirement: Possession of a New York State Motor Vehicle Operator's License at time of appointment.

ULSTER COUNTY
5160 PSY NRS
Classification: Competitive
Grade: 18
Union: CSEA

Adopted: January 19, 1990
Revised: July 21, 1994