

## **COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH NURSE**

### **DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:**

This is a journey-level professional nursing position in a community mental health agency. Incumbents perform more complex community mental health nursing duties such as leading group discussions and limited counseling of patients and function as a member of the department's professional staff organization. The work is performed in an inter-disciplinary team approach setting under the general supervision of the Clinical Unit Administrator or another higher level clinical mental health professional. Supervision is not usually a function of the class.

### **TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

1. Leads and participates in group discussions and therapeutic group activities;
2. Counsels patients on a variety of mental health, chemical dependency and health issues, and may provide crisis counseling;
3. May provide clinical supervision to others;
4. Provides primary medical care in emergencies;
5. Monitors the overall physical condition of patients;
6. Checks vital signs and administers medications to patients;
7. Maintains medical charts on patients;
8. Consults with all other unit staff in an inter-disciplinary team approach to mental health rehabilitation and treatment programs;
9. Transports or accompanies patients being transported to a hospital emergency room or the Psychiatric Emergency Services Unit;
10. Attends various meetings and completes a variety of forms and reports;
11. May function as a patient advocate for a small group of patients which involves monitoring of patient attendance, appointments, problems and progress, making referrals when necessary;
12. May function as a Case Manager which may include: initial screening and referral of patients entering the system, patient advocacy and acting as a liaison between the patient and various human service agencies;
13. Does related work as required.

### **FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Good knowledge of current professional nursing practices; good knowledge of the principles and practices of community mental health nursing; skill in the application of current nursing procedures and techniques; ability to maintain competency and to keep abreast of latest developments in the mental health field; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with others; ability to accept and utilize guidance; ability to perform duties in accordance with the ANA Code for professional nurses; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

Completion of course of study approved by the New York State Education Department as qualifying for a Registered Professional Nurse PLUS two (2) years of community mental health or psychiatric nursing experience.

### **SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:**

Eligibility for a New York State Registered Professional Nurse's license at time of application. Possession of the license at time of appointment.

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ADOPTED: 12/30/81

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