

RECREATIONAL THERAPIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:

This is professional work involving responsibility for the development and administration at a day-treatment center of a recreation program designed to meet therapeutic objectives. Incumbents must provide for a variety of active and passive recreational tools such as sports, dramatics, art, music and social activities which stimulate and maintain a patient's interest and effect improvement in a patient's physical, mental and social well-being. The work is performed under the general supervision of the Clinical Unit Administrator. Input on program planning and treatment procedures may be received from other professionals in the unit, such as Social Workers, Psychologists, Psychiatrists and Occupational Therapists. Program supervision is exercised over Recreational Therapy Assistants, Occupational Therapy Assistants and Activities Therapy Aides.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

1. Develops and implements a variety of recreational activities which are designed to augment the total treatment program at a center;
2. Conducts a variety of activity therapy groups such as sports, dramatics, games and social activities;
3. Coordinates the schedule of activity therapy groups, allowing for adequate staff coverage and the provision of a varied and stimulating program;
4. Supervises activities staff in the implementation of the therapeutic recreational program at a center;
5. Provides on-the-job training to activity staff in the techniques and goals of recreational therapy;
6. Conducts meetings with activity staff to discuss the recreational program and its effectiveness, new approaches in the field and problems in treatment;
7. Observes recreational activity therapy groups to evaluate staff's effectiveness in the provision of services and to evaluate the effectiveness of the activity in providing the necessary therapeutic services for patients;
8. Makes recommendations at unit meetings to other treatment professionals for changes or modifications in recreation programs that will better meet the needs of the patients;
9. Encourages participation and stimulates motivation of patients and staff at the center;
10. Supervises the ordering, distribution and maintenance of recreational supplies and equipment;
11. Coordinates activities such as picnics, tournaments and field trips between centers in the Division, to encourage socialization skills among patients;
12. May make arrangements for movies, concerts and other such field trips into the community;
13. May prepare and present reports on the recreational program or on the field of recreational therapy;
14. May function as a patient advocate for a small group of patients which involves monitoring of patient attendance, appointments, problems and progress, making referrals as necessary;
15. Prepares all necessary paperwork such as required reports and documenting patient contact in charts;
16. May function as a Case Manager which could include the following duties: initial screening and referral of patients entering the system, patient advocacy, and acting as a liaison between patient and the various human service agencies;
17. Does related work as required.

RECREATIONAL THERAPIST (Cont'd)

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of the methods, procedures and objectives of recreational therapy; good knowledge of recreational activities such as games, music, dramatics, arts and crafts, sports and hobbies; good knowledge of community recreational services and resources; working knowledge of the terminology and practices of modern social casework; working knowledge of basic physical and occupational activities; ability to supervise the work of others; ability to relate sympathetically to a potentially difficult patient population; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; organizational ability; enthusiasm initiative; resourcefulness; good judgment; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- EITHER: (A) Graduation from a New York State registered or regionally accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Recreational Therapy PLUS one (1) year of full-time work experience in therapeutic recreation;
- OR: (B) Graduation from a New York State registered or regionally accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in psychology, sociology, or a closely related field PLUS two (2) years of full-time work experience in therapeutic recreation;
- OR: (C) An equivalent combination of training and experience as outlined in (A) and (B) above.

NOTE: For this position, under qualification (B), related fields to psychology and sociology have been defined as social work, speech therapy, music therapy, art therapy, dance therapy, recreation, education, community and human services and biology. Other related fields may be considered on an individual basis depending upon courses taken. Candidates requesting approval for fields other than those specified above must submit a verifiable transcript with the application.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT

Possession of a valid driver's license.

MH0216

REVISED: 01/05/82 09/14/83 07/24/89 07/01/91