

## **SPEECH THERAPIST**

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

This is a technical professional position with responsibility for the provision of a comprehensive evaluation, diagnostic and treatment program of speech and hearing therapy for all patients serviced within the Department of Mental Hygiene. Initial diagnostic testing is conducted by the incumbent and referrals for more extensive diagnostic services may be made to a hospital or ENT (ear, Nose and Throat) clinic. Coordination and delivery of a patient's individual treatment plan is the responsibility of the incumbent. Professional expertise is provided to all departmental staff in the field of speech and hearing therapy. The incumbent does not have one work site, but rather is required to travel to all locations where services are provided. Work is performed under the general supervision of appropriate Clinical Unit Administrators and the Clinical Division Chief for administrative purposes with wide leeway allowed for the use of independent judgement in the performance of incumbent's professional responsibilities. Supervision may be exercised over activity staff in the areas of program execution.

### **TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

1. Provides individual and group speech and hearing therapy treatment;
2. Conducts speech and language screenings of new patients' capabilities in such areas as articulation, voice, fluency, language, and overall comprehension;
3. Evaluates findings from speech and language screenings and develops remedial therapy programs;
4. Supervises staff in the execution of activities geared to develop patient's communication and language development skills;
5. Provides in-service skills training program to staff on a regular basis on topics in speech and hearing therapy, e.g., "Maintenance of Hearing Aids," "Communication Disorders and Schizophrenia," etc.;
6. Organizes annual audiometric and speech screenings of all patients;
7. Coordinates the delivery of necessary follow-up services, such as additional testing or fitting of hearing aids, through a variety of service providers in the community;
8. Instructs patients on the proper use of hearing aids and may perform simple maintenance on hearing aids;
9. Integrates speech and hearing treatment plan into patients' total treatment plan;
10. Documents all patient contact in patient's chart;
11. Functions as advocate with State agencies to ensure that patients receive necessary speech and hearing assessments and remedial services;
12. Serves as resource person for the department in the areas of speech and language disorders;
13. Does related work as required.

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

Thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of speech and language disorders; good knowledge of hearing disorders which may affect speech; good knowledge of pathological conditions and the socioeconomic factors affecting speech disabilities; good knowledge of community resources available to support or supplement speech therapy programs; working knowledge of speech and hearing disorders prevalent among a chronically mentally ill population; working knowledge of the terminology and practices of modern social casework; ability to administer tests and record results for speech and hearing disorders; ability to establish and maintain satisfactory working relationships; ability to relate sympathetically to a potentially difficult patient population; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; good professional judgement; patience; tact and courtesy; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

**SPEECH THERAPIST** (Cont'd)

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

- EITHER:       (A)     Licensed and currently registered by the New York State Education Department as a Speech Pathologist;
- OR:            (B)     Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State recognized college or university with a Master's degree in Speech Pathology or an acceptable equivalent (i.e., speech therapy) and one year of full-time work experience in speech therapy.

MH0219

ADOPTED:   05/11/78

REVISED:   01/05/82

              10/00/82

              09/14/83

              07/01/91