

PSYCHOLOGIST I

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:

This is a professional position in the Department of Mental Hygiene which involves the delivery of psychotherapy services to patients with social, emotional, and related difficulties. This position requires membership in the Department's Professional Staff Organization, and incumbents need to apply for and receive departmental clinical privileges in order to deliver counseling and psychotherapy services to patients. Each level of privileging is based on departmentally established educational and experiential requirements. This position is considered a trainee position, until the employee meets the minimum qualifications of the Psychologist II position. Psychologist II's must possess a license as a Psychologist from the New York State Education Department. Upon obtaining a license and meeting all other necessary requirements for Psychologist II, employees will be promoted to the II level position. The maximum time period an employee may serve in the trainee position is thirty months. Responsibilities include but are not limited to evaluation, diagnosis, treatment planning, therapy, psychological test selections, administration, scoring and interpretation, community education, and coordination of treatment with and consultation to other agencies and professionals. Work is performed under the general supervision of a clinical mental health professional, with leeway in the exercise of professional methodology and judgement. Clinical supervision is received on an as-needed basis from the Clinical Unit Administrator or other senior clinicians privileged to supervise at the professional level. An employee may be required to serve on any of the Department's standing or ad hoc committees. Supervision may be exercised over less experienced professional and/or paraprofessional staff. An incumbent in this title may be required to be on call for extra duty on evenings and weekends.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

1. Maintains an individual caseload, providing patients with individual, group, family and marital therapy;
2. Performs psychological evaluation for diagnostic purposes using appropriate testing devices;
3. Administers psychological tests to patients;
4. Performs intakes, screenings, and diagnostic activities for a community mental health and mental retardation/development disabilities program;
5. Formulates treatment plan for individual patients and modifies treatment plan on an on-going basis to reflect patient's behavior changes as a result of therapy;
6. Maintains case records, documenting all patient contacts and meeting deadlines for required paperwork such as care reviews, quarterly summaries, etc.;
7. Refers patients for other services within the department as necessary and to other governmental and non-governmental agencies;
8. May do court ordered evaluations on the severity of patient's problem and make recommendations on sentencing;
9. Provides consultation to various professionals and agencies to assist them in difficult situations and improve their staff competency;
10. Provides preventative care on various mental health issues through informational and educational community activities;
11. May be required to periodically present a case at Department-wide grand rounds;
12. Develops and maintains liaison with federal, state and local mental health agencies and with the community-at-large;
13. May act as a petitioner for the emergency institutionalization of patients;
14. May develop and implement follow-up studies to determine program effectiveness;
15. Does related work as required.

PSYCHOLOGIST I (Cont'd)

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of the factors which contribute to mental, emotional, and social maladjustment and of therapeutic techniques to treat those affected; good knowledge of psychological tests and measurements; good knowledge of local and regional community mental health systems; ability to work effectively with professional associates; ability to relate sympathetically to a potentially difficult patient population; ability to maintain competency and to keep abreast of latest developments in the mental health field; ability to understand the methodology and results of research projects; ability to prepare narrative reports and case histories; ability to participate in community education activities, including public speaking; ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing; initiative; resourcefulness; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Possession of a doctoral degree in psychology issued by a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:

Candidate must have completed a pre-doctoral internship program in clinical or counseling psychology approved by the American Psychological Association.

MH0212

ADOPTED: 09/08/75 (Associate Psychologist)

REVISED: 01/27/82

03/30/92

01/13/95