PSYCHIATRIC NURSE I

NATURE AND VARIETY OF WORK

This is entry-level professional psychotherapeutic nurse work involving evaluation, psychotherapy, treatment, and referral of community mental health patients. Incumbents address psychobiological needs of the clients by understanding somatic functioning and its impact on behavior. Contacts are with Health Department staff, patients and their families, public and private health care and social service providers for the purpose of providing individual, family and group psychotherapy, and coordinative services. Work performed is of a complex and difficult nature. Incumbents handle clinical situations that require independent judgment and action in cases of triage and psychiatric emergencies. Work assignments may expose incumbents to infectious/ contagious disease. Incumbents work under the minimum supervision of a higher level supervisory health care official and work performance is evaluated through observation, consultation, conferences, and review of cases.

Upon satisfactory completion of a one (1) year probationary period entry-level incumbents may be non-competitively promoted to the II full performance level at management's discretion.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY)

Serves as primary psychotherapist to individuals, groups and families with complex problems by providing formal/informal consultation and education about mental illness, medication management, available resources, etc.

Coordinates patients' treatment through consultation and liaison with a wide variety of community organizations and agencies.

Provides psychiatric nursing consultation to mental health colleagues in the development and refinement of treatment plans and clinical interventions.

Performs intake assessments on clients with a variety of complex psychiatric problems.

Assesses patients' physiological status to differentiate between normal and abnormal health conditions (e.g., suicidal, homicidal) and recommends appropriate evaluations and follow-up.

Assists in the coordination of psychiatric treatment.

Assesses patients and utilizes sound nursing and psychological principles to decide

treatment needed, interventions needed and other professionals to be involved in care.

Administers medications as ordered by the psychiatrist and monitors effects of medication on patients.

Evaluates effectiveness of treatment approaches and makes modifications as necessary.

Maintains complete and current records on assigned clients.

Prepares statistical reports on client related activities.

Obtains specimens for laboratory testing and schedules patients for testing such as X-rays, EKG's and EEG's.

Obtains patients' vital signs.

Provides crisis intervention, first aid and nursing care as needed in emergency situations.

Willingly and cooperatively performs related duties and responsibilities which may not be specifically listed in the job description but are within the general occupational category and responsibility level typically associated with the employee's class of work.

KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND ABILITIES AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

Extensive knowledge of theory and practice of community psychiatric nursing including knowledge of human behavior, physiology and pharmacology.

Extensive knowledge of crisis intervention.

Extensive knowledge of community resources and the skills to assist patients in accessing those resources.

Extensive knowledge of psychiatric and mental health assessment tools.

Extensive knowledge of physiological states and their interaction with psychological factors.

Extensive knowledge of psychopharmacology including normal dosage, administration, action and adverse reactions.

Basic knowledge of statistics.

Extensive skills in psychotherapeutic treatment and psychobiological interventions.

Extensive skills recognizing and responding to emergency situations.

Ability to recognize and interpret alterations in physiological states and refer appropriately.

Ability to organize and manage a caseload.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Master's Degree in psychiatric or mental health nursing or a mental health field from an accredited college or university; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Possession of a Certification as a Clinical Specialist in Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing or Clinical Specialist in Child and Adolescent Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing by the American Nurses Association.

Possession a valid license to practice as a Registered Nurse in the State of Maryland issued by the Maryland State Board of Nurses at the time of appointment.

Possession of a valid motor vehicle operator's license when required for performance of job-related duties at time of appointment.

Possession of a valid Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certificate at time of appointment.

NEW: CB-93-1993