

THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES AIDE

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This work involves assisting in the preparation and conduct of therapeutic social and recreational programs within the Cattaraugus County Mental Health Continuing Treatment Program. Duties are performed under the supervision of a Therapeutic Activity Worker according to established procedures and practices. Incumbents receive on-the-job training in therapeutic recreation practices specifically designed for the mentally ill client population. A Therapeutic Activities Aide does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

- Attends and participates in orientation and on-going in-service programs;
- Attends staff meetings as requested;
- Assists with individual treatment plans for each client as established by the treatment team;
- Offers in-put and observation;
- Assists with group and individual therapeutic activities and the supervision of same within clinics as well as in the community;
- Transports clients as needed by motor vehicle;
- Prepares equipment, supplies, and facilities for activities;
- Prepares basic non-medica forms and reports.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Ability to acquire a working knowledge of the basic principles and terminally related to therapeutic activities programs; ability to acquire a working knowledge of hobbies, arts, crafts, and music sufficient to assist clients in activities; ability to follow oral and written directions; ability to read and write English; ability to establish and maintain supportive and encouraging relationships with clients; ability to observe and communicate clients' response and behaviors; emotional maturity; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: A) Successful completion of fifteen (15) semester credit hours in behavioral science, human services, education, recreation, child care or a closely related field from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees; or,

B) One (1) year of experience, or its part time equivalent, as a therapy aide in a center for the mentally or developmentally disabled; as a psychiatric aide in a public or private mental hospital; as a recreation aide or leader in a municipal recreation program or a recognized recreation program; or, in a human services position in a closely related field; or,

C) An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (A) and (B).

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT: Possession of an appropriate class New York State motor vehicle operators license at the time of appointment and throughout employment and use of a privately-owned motor vehicle.

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Revised: 3/31/10