

THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES WORKER

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves planning, organizing, and directing a program of therapeutic social and recreational activities of the Cattaraugus County Mental Health agency outpatient clinic. Incumbents are members of a team helping clients cope with social, emotional, and related difficulties associated with their illness. Duties are performed under the general supervision of the Day Treatment Supervisor with wide leeway allowed for the use of independent judgement in carrying out the details of their work. Direct supervision is exercised over employees and volunteers assisting in the conduct of activities. A Therapeutic Activities Worker does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

- Acts as a member of an integrated team providing direct and indirect client services in the assessment and treatment of social, emotional, and related difficulties associated with mental illness;
- Develops, designs, and implements individual counseling treatment plans;
- Functions as a group leader for specific program activities providing for educational, vocational, interpersonal, and rehabilitative counseling;
- Monitors clients' progress and makes recommendations on alterations of treatment plans;
- Collects and maintains appropriate data from various sources such as professional staff and clients' families to establish an overall approach to solution of psychological, mental, and social problems;
- Plans, organizes, and supervises social, recreational, and skilled hobby activities designed to improve a client's self-image and enhance the individual's interaction with others;
- Consults with physicians and therapists to assess clients' interests and needs to design and activities program for each individual;
- Conducts various activities for groups or individuals;
- Recruits volunteers as instructors for arts and crafts programs;
- Supervises employees and volunteers conducting activities;
- Prepares periodic reports of activities conducted;
- Requests supplies needed for individual programs;
- Maintains case records regarding client's participation in various programs available at the clinic.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of a variety of therapeutic social and recreational activities designed to improve a client's self-image and promote interaction with others; skill in the conduct of art, crafts, or music programs; ability to choose activities appropriate for the individuals; ability to motivate persons to participate in activities; ability to recruit and train volunteer craft instructors; ability to present oral and written comments regarding client behavior clearly and concisely; resourcefulness; tact and courtesy; physical condition sufficient to perform the essential functions of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with at least a Bachelor's degree in recreational therapy or leadership, occupational therapy, or creative arts therapy;

OR

- B) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with at least a Bachelor's degree in the social sciences and one year of therapeutic recreation experience in a health care facility adhering to standards acceptable to the New York State Office of Mental Health.

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Adopted: 9/15/94