

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE NURSE I

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, in an outpatient setting, performs psychiatric and substance abuse interventions and services in the treatment of the mentally ill and addicted; and does other work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Positions in this classification provide responsible rehabilitative and treatment services in the Behavioral Health Clinic, clients' residences, shelters, and other community sites or facilities. Psychiatric Technicians work under the general supervision of physician assistants, psychiatrists, registered nurses or other qualified personnel. This classification is distinguished from other classifications in the health field in that licensure, training, and experience as a licensed psychiatric technician or licensed vocational nurse is required.

REPORT TO

Behavioral Health Care Director and Behavioral Health Care Manager.

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

As a member of an interdisciplinary team, assists in the coordination of services, including planning, monitoring, documenting and conducting evaluations of services provided to mentally ill or addicted individuals; observes and records symptomatology, behavior and responses to treatment and reports significant changes or unusual occurrences to supervisors; administers medication orally, topically, hypodermically and intramuscularly, as prescribed by a physician assistant or psychiatrist; participates in coordinated care planning, including case opening for medication only clients, development and implementation of service plans; provides crisis intervention; may act as a liaison to community healthcare facilities; provides a full spectrum of case management services; attends meetings and in-service training as required; transports individuals to hospitals, clinics and community facilities; assists individuals with Activities in Daily Living (ADL) and facilitates or teaches personal skills needed to maintain stable community living.

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TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sit for extended periods; frequently stand and walk; normal manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination; lift and move object weighing up to 25 pounds; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of office equipment including computers, telephones, calculators, copiers, and FAX.

TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is usually performed in an office environment; continuous contact with staff and the public.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Knowledge of:

- Psychiatric nursing principles and practices, including proper administration of medications, treatments and therapies.
- Uses, effects, and possible adverse reactions to medicines.
- Physiological, psychological and social aspects and characteristics of emotional disturbances, mental illness, and substance abuse.
- Principles and methods of counseling and the accepted techniques for assessing psycho-social behavior.
- Human behavior and development.
- Problems and needs of the emotionally ill, socially disturbed, and addicted.
- Pharmacology of medications and psychotropic drug treatment.
- Appropriate and available community resources.
- Pertinent laws and regulations regarding health and social service programs.
- Laws and regulations as they pertain to clients' legal rights.

Ability to:

- Assess all types of client behavioral, emotional, and substance abuse actions/problems and develop and implement effective and appropriate treatment plans.
- Evaluate, provisionally diagnose and differentiate psychiatric and organic conditions and impairments and recommend effective and appropriate treatment plans.
- Conduct effective and appropriate individual and group counseling.
- Provide crisis intervention to all types of client behavioral, emotional, and substance abuse actions/problems.
- Establish and maintain a variety of case notes, client records, health histories and other required documentation.
- Communicate effectively in both oral and written form; expressing complex and technical terminology and concepts.

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- Establish and maintain effective working relationships.
- Work effectively with mentally ill and addicted individuals.
- Administer treatments and medications as prescribed by a physician assistant or psychiatrist.
- Observe and accurately record patient reactions and responses to treatment plans and medications.
- Recognize symptoms indicative of adverse patient reactions.
- Work effectively as a member of a treatment team.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Possess a valid California Psychiatric Technician or Vocational Nurse license.
- 2 years working in a mental health outpatient setting or 5 years working in a mental health inpatient setting.
- Possess a California Class C driver license from the start of employment.

Note: Loss of State LPT or LVN licensure shall result in termination or reassignment, if such a vacancy exists and the incumbent meets the minimum requirements for the vacant position.