

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE NURSE II

DEFINITION

Under direction, in an outpatient setting, provide highly skilled, and specialized psychiatric treatment, counseling, and case management services to individuals with mental and emotional illness in, substance abuse or dependence, and their families and support networks; to provide professional nursing evaluation, care and advice to clients; and to serve as a liaison/resource person between Amador County Behavioral Health and other community agencies/organizations in a training, educational, advisory and/or consulting capacity; and to do other work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the journey level classification of professional nursing and client support/treatment. This job class is distinguished from other professional mental health classes by the Registered Nurse licensing requirement. This class requires specialized knowledge of physical, psychiatric, emotional, and substance abuse conditions and reactions to psychotropic and other drugs and medication.

REPORT TO

Behavioral Health Care Director and Behavioral Health Care Manager.

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Interview clients and makes a psycho-social assessment and evaluation of problems; observe clients' reactions, conditions and symptoms and initiate appropriate actions as necessary; open cases, prepare case histories and diagnostic treatment plans; consult with physician assistants and/or psychiatrists regarding drug treatment plans or any change in clients' condition or behavior; participate in case conferences and team meetings to review individual needs and service plans; provide ongoing liaison with human service providers around issues of treatment and care; offer technical assistance and support to other human service providers and works with these agencies to identify and develop needed health care services; serve as an internal consultant in psychiatric nursing, geriatrics, organic impairments and the effects of psychotropic and other drugs; participate in staff conferences/workshops; serve as a liaison and consultant to a variety of community agencies educating them to the various aspects of emotional crisis or

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disturbances based on organic impairments; initiate and maintain a variety of records, reports, case notes, correspondence and forms for assigned client case load; provide crisis evaluation and intervention; provide and/or oversee the provision of short term case management services to emotionally disturbed clients, assisting clients to function at the most independent level in the least restrictive setting possible; participate in and coordinates with representatives from other agencies/organizations in the collaborative treatment of shared clients; may oversee and instruct student interns participating in an approved program; coordinate and review their work; may act as a case management or assessment team leader, developing and implementing appropriate treatment plans for assigned clients; perform physical assessments of patients; administer medication orally and/or by injection under a physician's direction; plan, coordinate and participate in special programs/ projects as assigned.

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.

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Ability to:

- Assess and diagnose 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.
- Train others at various levels of expertise in the concepts, theories, symptoms and diagnosis of emotional illness and organic impairments.
- Conduct effective and appropriate individual and group counseling on an on-going basis. .
- 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.
- 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.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships.

Training and Experience:

Possession of an A.A. or B.A. in nursing or graduation from a 3 year nursing program.

Special Requirements, Conditions:

License Requirements: Possession of a valid California class C driver license or the ability to provide suitable transportation which is approved by the appointing authority; possession of a Registered Nurse's license issued by the State of California.

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