

SENIOR PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The duties of this class require advanced psychotherapeutic skills in helping patients with social, emotional and related difficulties associated with their individual pathologies. Under the general direction of the Supervising Psychiatric Social Worker or Program Director, the Senior Psychiatric Social Worker determines the scope and type of work to be performed in helping the patient to adjust into his/her old or new environment. This class differs from that of Psychiatric Social Worker by virtue of its expanded scope and the ability to assume the most difficult cases and assist the Psychiatric Social Worker in providing treatment as needed including services to the seriously and persistently mentally ill. Employees in this class are expected to have contact with professionals of agencies in or outside the community to maximize service for patients. Performs related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative only)

Responsible for the supervision and inservice training of psychiatric social work interns;
Provides clinical social work intervention at the Putnam County Correctional Facility as well as coordinating forensic intervention; evaluations, treatment, and statistics;
Coordinates treatment of children and adolescents with other agencies responsible for youth;
Acts as a youth coordinator, and attends youth board meetings;
Coordinates satellite clinics;
Acts as liaison to schools, courts, as well as other agencies;
Provides long and short term psychotherapy to individuals, families, couples, and groups;
Provides crisis intervention services and brief psychotherapy for suicidal adolescents and families who are experiencing trauma;
Responsible for professional evaluation, interpretation, diagnosis and treatment recommendations related to screening and intake;
Serves as a member of the interdisciplinary team to review all applications for appropriateness of request for services, the need for specialized evaluation and assignment;
Maintains records which include screening, intake reports, initial and comprehensive treatment plans, progress notes, case reviews, and termination summaries;
Responsible for evaluations, progress reports, and case summaries as they are provided to other agencies upon request;
Receives supervision monitoring process and progress of therapy cases;
Participates in inservice group therapy and family therapy seminars which meet to deal with problems related to therapy with groups and families;

SENIOR PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER (cont'd)

Consults with other staff members regarding specific issues of cases which impact on the treatment of cases;
Performs a variety of related activities as required.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Thorough knowledge of, and ability to practice, diagnostic and therapeutic techniques utilized in a psychiatric clinic; thorough knowledge of, and the ability to apply, the procedures of social work and of the social factors affecting mental health; thorough knowledge of personality development and of the factors which contribute to mental, emotional and social maladjustment (pathology); ability to organize work effectively; ability to interpret federal, state and local laws affecting the medical and health programs; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, including the preparation of reports; ability to establish effective working relationships with a wide variety of people, both within and outside of the agency; ability to plan and supervise the work of subordinates; ability to exhibit sensitivity in working with psychiatric patients; responsibility for continuing professional education.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Master's degree in Social Work, and two (2) years of post-Master's experience in social work.

PLEASE NOTE: Education beyond the secondary level must be from an institution accredited or recognized by the Board of Regents of the New York State Department of Education as a post secondary, degree-granting institution.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:

Current certification to practice social work in the State of New York.