

PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER

DEFINITION

Under direction, to provide needed social services to residents with psychiatric, behavioral, emotional, and/or physical disabilities, and to do related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Determines through interviews with residents, their families, agency staff and others, and through collateral investigations, the range of services needed by residents and their families; plans and develops a social plan of care for each resident and his/her family which may include direct counseling, treatment provided by other agency support services and/or referral to other agencies; conducts individual and group therapy sessions; instructs and directs other agency support staff in therapeutic techniques; arranges for services from referral agencies; reviews resident and family social situations as necessary and modifies social plan of care as indicated; explains the scope of services to the resident and family as is appropriate; provides direct crisis intervention services when required; maintains case records and prepares reports; participates in development of multidisciplinary plans of care and their reviews; facilitates development of interdisciplinary active treatment plans, writes monthly summaries of progress toward active treatment goals, arranges interdisciplinary reviews of active treatment plan quarterly and annually.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Education and Experience: Bachelor's degree in social work or related field. Prefer at least one year's psychiatric social work experience with the chronically mentally ill in a health care setting.

Knowledges and Abilities: Knowledge of generic social work methods and principles; including interviewing techniques, assessment principles and evaluation methods; knowledge of human growth and behavior; knowledge of mental health treatment modalities used in individual, group, and family therapy; knowledge of health and welfare resources and the ways these resources may be utilized by residents, knowledge of programs and planning techniques; knowledge of crisis intervention techniques; knowledge of laws, regulations, and practices pertaining to federal and state programs and the rights of residents; ability to evaluate the social service needs of individuals and prepare a social care plan; ability to organize work efficiently and effectively; ability to conduct individual and group therapy programs; ability to design new programs to meet individual needs; ability to respect individual differences; ability to follow agency policy and accept constructive supervisory direction and consultative suggestions; ability to work effectively with agency staff and others; ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

Special Requirements: Must have or be eligible for a valid Wisconsin driver's license and have access to personal transportation.

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