

## **SENIOR COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH NURSE**

**LOCATION:** Tioga County Department of Mental Hygiene  
**CLASSIFICATION:** Competitive  
**SALARY:** CSEA – Salary Grade XVII; Article 3, Section B#4  
**ADOPTED:** REVISED 2/00, 12/01, 5/04 Tioga Co. Personnel & Civil Service

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** The work involves responsibility for supervising the activities of professional and paraprofessional staff particularly those which include medically related aspects of assessment and treatment. Also, provides skilled psychiatric/addictions nursing services to program patients to aid in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of mental illness and substance abuse. The incumbent performs a variety of nursing activities as part of a multi-disciplinary team, provides health related training to other staff and carries a therapeutic caseload of assigned clients. Work is performed under general supervision of the Clinical Program Director with wide latitude allowed for the exercise of independent judgment in performing nursing duties. Does related work as required.

### **TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:** (Illustrative Only)

- Provides professional psychiatric/addictions nursing service as a lead member of a multi-disciplinary treatment team;
- Participates in the intake, screening, and diagnostic evaluation of clinic patients and/or their family members;
- Coordinates services with other agencies and makes client referrals as necessary;
- Makes recommendations to fellow team members regarding emergency or continuing care and suggests alternative treatment plans;
- Maintains contact with agencies such as schools, social services, and probation officers to understand and/or overcome client's medical and psychological problems;
- Advises the family on methods of dealing with or correcting emergency situations and on the availability of medical, social, and housing facilities for the patient in the community;
- Participates in and assists fellow team members in assessing, planning for, meeting and evaluating patient and family member needs to aid in the formulation of a treatment plan including medical needs;
- Assists in training Community Mental Health Nurses and Social Work Assistants;
- Facilitates community mental health education, consultation, and public relations activities;
- Provides in-service psychiatric/addictions nursing education, orientation, and consultation to staff and other community agencies;
- Attends courses, performs independent study and reading to further professional growth;
- Compiles and maintains a variety of records, reports and statistical information as required by Federal, State and/or local regulations;
- May supervise a unit within a larger program or assume leadership role as needed in the absence of the program director.

### **FULL PERFORMANCE, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Thorough knowledge of the principals and practices of community Mental Health Nursing; good knowledge of current trends and theories in the nursing care and treatment of patients with mental, emotional or substance abuse problems; good knowledge of community organizations and resources available for the mentally ill/substance abusers; working knowledge of abnormal signs and symptoms relating to physical, psychological and emotional health; working knowledge of individual and group counseling techniques; ability to provide mental health teaching and

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consultation to staff and community agencies; ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with patients, families and colleagues; ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing; skill in the application of current nursing procedures and techniques of patient care; empathy for persons with emotional or mental health/substance abuse problems; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Possession of a license and current registration to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse and **EITHER:**

- (A) Possession of a Master's degree in Psychiatric or Community Mental Health Nursing from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university and two (2) years of post-graduate full-time paid experience or its part-time equivalent in providing Community Mental Health Nursing Services; **OR**
- (B) American Nursing Association Certification as Psychiatric & Mental Health Nurse and two (2) years of full-time paid experience or its part-time equivalent in psychiatric/addictions nursing; **OR**
- (C) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Nursing and three (3) years of full-time paid experience or its part-time equivalent in psychiatric/addictions nursing; **OR**
- (D) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with an Associate's degree in Nursing OR completion of a three (3) year nursing diploma program AND five (5) years of full-time paid experience or its part-time equivalent in psychiatric/addictions nursing; **OR**
- (E) An equivalent combination of training and experience as defined by the limits of (a) and (d).

**Substitution Note:** Possession of Certification as an Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) may be substituted for two (2) years of the required experience listed above.

**Special Note:** If appointed within Alcohol and Drug Services, the incumbent is expected to actively participate in training activities that lead to credentialing as or maintenance of a Certified Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC).