

Jurisdiction: Oneida County
Jurisdictional Class: Competitive
Revised: 12/16/96

NURSE COUNSELOR

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position exists in the County Mental Health Department or Insight House, and involves responsibility for providing skilled nursing health assessments to clients to aid in the treatment and rehabilitation of chemical dependency. The incumbent in this position performs a variety of nursing activities as part of a treatment team providing assessments of potential health problems and medical complications of clients. This entails counseling individual clients and initiating referrals, when appropriate, in close collaboration with the program physician. The incumbent works under the general supervision of a Psychiatric Social Worker II or higher-level supervisor as the program coordinator, with wide latitude allowed for the exercise of independent judgement. Supervision is not generally a function of this position. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative Only)

Documents nursing health assessments on clients;
Assesses and identifies existing and potential health problems and medical complications of clients and plans and carries out a nursing care plan;
Counsels individual clients on chemical dependency, as assigned with supervision;
Communicates vital health-related client information through case collaboration with the program physician and other health agencies where appropriate;
Co-facilitates with the program physician the weekly chemical dependency group meetings;
Provides clinical interpretation of medical examinations and diagnoses, medications prescribed, and other aspects of the treatment plan concerned with nursing care;
Initiates referrals for clients to other medical settings and community agencies, upon direction of the program physician;
Assists with group therapy of clients as required;
Compiles and maintains a variety of records, reports, and statistical information;
Makes recommendations to fellow team members regarding health assessments and continuing care;
Conforms to Federal, State, and local laws of confidentiality regarding alcohol and drug treatment centers;
Keeps an inventory of medical supplies.

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FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Good knowledge of current trends of theories in nursing care and treatment of clients with chemical dependency; good knowledge of medical terminology, sanitation, and personal hygiene; working knowledge of local chemical dependency services and other appropriate services relevant to client treatment; working knowledge of services offered by community health care or social services organizations; working knowledge of individual and group counseling techniques; working knowledge of physical, pharmacological, mental, emotional, spiritual, and social effects resulting from chemical dependency, and an understanding of the recovery process; ability to give support, comfort, and reassurance to clients; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; ability to follow instructions, keep records, and write reports; ability to get along with clients, physicians, and other staff members.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: 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; **OR**
- (B) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in nursing **AND** one (1) year of experience in public health, rehabilitation, mental health, or psychiatric nursing in a position requiring the provision of direct service to patients in the community; **OR**
- (C) Graduation from an approved three year school of professional nursing **AND** completion of an additional thirty (30) semester credit hours in any combination of the following subject areas: psychiatric nursing, community nursing, public health nursing, nursing education, psychology, social work or related area; **AND** two (2) years of experience as outlined in (B) above; **OR**
- (D) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered two year college with an Associate Degree in nursing **AND** completion of an additional thirty (30) semester credit hours in any combination of the following subject areas: psychiatric nursing, community nursing, public health nursing, nursing education, psychology, social work or related area; **AND** (3) years of experience as outlined in (B) above; **OR**
- (E) An equivalent combination of training and experience, as defined by the limits of (A) through (D) above.

NOTE: Candidates filing under options (C) and (D) must submit a copy of their transcripts.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Possession of a current, valid license and registration to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse in New York State at time of appointment.