EXPRESSIVE THERAPIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision, incumbents of this class are responsible for providing a scheduled program of specialized therapeutic activities to an assigned group of patients for the purpose of effecting improvements in their physical, emotional and social well-being. An incumbent in this class plans, implements, coordinates and participates in the conduct of therapeutic activities for patient groups. Therapists conduct assessments, make treatment recommendations specific to the discipline and patient needs, and communicate this information to appropriate treatment staff. Therapists function as a member of a multidisciplinary treatment team managing all aspects of clinical and environmental patient issues. Patient responses and progress are communicated via rounds, staff meetings and case conferences. Supervision may be exercised over a number of other staff members including recreation leaders, aides, volunteers or other support staff. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Assumes direct responsibility for the welfare of all assigned patients;

Organizes and conducts therapeutic activities such as dance, music, arts, crafts, social activities, trips, group discussions and special programs in accordance with patients' needs, capabilities and interests;

Adapts therapeutic activities and equipment to facilitate patient participation, as needed;

Participates in the development of a treatment plan for patients, based upon comprehensive assessments developed with treatment team; prepares recommendations regarding the therapeutic activity portion of the treatment plan, and evaluates this portion on a regular basis and revises treatment plan when indicated;

Documents specialized therapy assessments, treatment plan, and progress notes in the patients' charts;

Posts up-to date schedule of therapeutic activities for each day of the week in a conspicuous area in the Unit for patient information;

Informs patients and Unit staff of special activities, or off-ground trips, by announcements, flyers, and participation in meetings;

Acts as lead therapist with paraprofessionals and/or student interns by making work assignments, providing advice and guidance in carrying out activities and goals of the therapeutic activity program;

Attends and participate in rounds, staff meetings and seminars for the purpose of continuously updating professional knowledge and enhancing program effectiveness;

Orders, stores and issues equipment and maintains daily activities area;

Performs related duties and other departmental tasks as may be assigned by the Department Head or Recreation Therapy Supervisor;

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Cont'd)

Accesses protected health information (PHI) in accordance with departmental assignments and guidelines defining levels of access (i.e. incidental vs. extensive).

May use computer applications or other automated systems such as spreadsheets, word processing, calendar, e-mail and database software in performing work assignments;

May perform other incidental tasks, as needed.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Good knowledge of the theory and methods used in specialized activity programs; expertise in one of the specialized recreational activities such as creative arts therapy, music therapy, psychodrama etc.; ability to establish and maintain effective relationships with patients in order to stimulate their interest in therapeutic activities; ability to work individually and in groups to develop and implement specialized service programs and motivate patient's participation; ability to prepare and maintain accurate and appropriate records and reports; ability to effectively use computer applications such as spreadsheets, word processing, calendar, e-mail and database software in performing work assignments; ability to read, write, speak, understand, and communicate in English sufficiently to perform the essential duties of the position; sound judgment; creativity; flexibility; tact; resourcefulness; initiative; integrity; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Possession of a valid license and current registration, issued by the New York State Education Department, as a Creative Arts Therapist.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Unless exempt pursuant to New York State Education Law, must maintain a current New York State license to practice as a Creative Arts Therapist throughout the course of employment.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Possession of a valid license to operate a motor vehicle in the State of New York.

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

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, only experience gained after attaining the minimum education level indicated in the minimum qualifications will be considered in evaluating experience.