

PSYCHIATRIC NURSE I-BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

DEFINITION

Under general supervision and direction provides professional nursing care to mentally ill and emotionally disturbed patients, requiring a specialized knowledge of facilities and laws related to the treatment of the mentally ill and substance abuse. Collaborates and advises staff and other personnel in diagnosing and planning treatments for such patients as well as assists and participates in various administrative and mental health program activities.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Psychiatric Nurse I is the entry and training level of the class series. Incumbents are fully licensed and provide specialized psychiatric nursing care within the scope of their licensing and training while learning County policies and becoming proficient in procedures and become accustomed to providing services in a public health care environment.

After an incumbent has gained sufficient experience and demonstrated the capacity to work on a more independent basis, they may reasonably expect promotion to the Psychiatric Nurse II level.

REPORTS TO

Behavioral Health Unit Supervisor – Nursing, Psychiatrist/Medical Director, Deputy Director, or Behavioral Health Director

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None.

PSYCHIATRIC NURSE I – 2

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Assesses, implements, and monitors client physical and mental health deficiencies, treatments, and needs within established guidelines and procedural framework of the Behavioral Health Department.
- Observes and reports patients' mental and physical condition and behavior to physician, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, and mental health treatment team as overall assessment and treatment planning and implements modifications as directed.
- Participates in the development, implementation, and evaluation of direct patient care and provides direct and ongoing assessment and care of patients.
- Prescribed medications, treatments, and makes modifications commensurate with patient's conditions.
- Maintains medication, supplies, inventory and physical security of drugs and medical supplies and records; dispenses prescribed medications; administers medications, including injections, noting reactions and results; and consults with medical providers regarding individual patients' medications.
- Works collaboratively with medical and non-medical staff fostering cooperation among those involved in determining and furthering patient's best interests.
- Interacts and educates family members and significant others about conditions, treatment plans, and aftercare instructions.
- Maintains complete charts and records of patients' condition, treatment, and reactions.
- Assists with evaluating services or program; may teach health education classes.
- Attend and participate in conferences, committee meetings, staff development, and in-service training.
- Establish and maintain effective working relations with co-workers, the public, and other government agencies.
- Assists in the development of improved departmental procedures, methods and services.
- Responsible for daily management of a behavioral health clinic/facility, assess and effectively respond to assaultive and inappropriate behavior.
- Deliver medications as needed in urgent situations.
- Participate in the on call emergency rotation as assigned.
- Adhere to health and safety standards, protocols, and equipment operation.
- Utilize appropriate personal protective equipment, and safety protocols.

PSYCHIATRIC NURSE I – 3

WORKING CONDITIONS AND PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Work is performed in crisis, in clinical settings, and outpatient facilities. There is a potential for exposure to hostile situations and infectious diseases. Standard work hours are required. Incumbents must be able to work in and with a clinically challenging client population.

Incumbents must possess normal manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination for grasping, repetitive hand movements, and fine coordination in handling medical instruments and preparing client medical files using a computer keyboard. The position requires extended periods of sitting with periods of frequent standing and walking; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; and the ability to lift and carry up to 25 lbs.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Incumbent should possess a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of professional nursing practices, procedures, and techniques used in the care and treatment of psychiatric patients; medical, social, and community resources available to patients; organization and standard procedures of mental health treatment facilities and multi-disciplinary treatment teams; standard professional methods of physical restraint of patients; symptoms and behavior patterns of mental and mood disorders; social psychological, and physical factors of mental and mood disorders; medical and psychiatric specific terminology; narcotics, mood stabilizers, and other psychotropic pharmaceuticals including their effects, control procedures, and preparation and administration protocols; behavioral interventions specific to the needs of patients; State and Federal laws related to psychiatric nursing, mandatory reporting, and providing treatment for substance abuse and the mentally ill.

Skill in assessing medical issues complicating psychiatric care; communicating patient histories, assessments, and care plans to psychiatrists, emergency room personnel, nursing staff, and in providing testimony under oath in a competent, concise, and accurate manner; interpreting laboratory results in relation to psychiatric conditions; conducting mental health status observations and obtaining relevant information from patients, family, and others through intake exams, ; documenting and maintaining accurate patient records; and applying professional judgement in determining appropriate intervention techniques.

PSYCHIATRIC NURSE I – 4

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES(continued)

Ability to understand and implement limitations to scope of practice as defined by the California Board of Medical Quality Assurance and County policy; understand and implement County, State, and Federal statutes, rules, ordinances, codes, and regulations; diagnose medical conditions from psychiatric symptoms; effectively represent the County in interactions with patients and their families, the public, other government agencies, community groups, and strategic partnerships; demonstrate leadership in applying behavioral interventions; provide oversight to non-medical staff; assess and recommend ongoing treatment needs related to discharge; implement intervention services and identify referral services; adhere to confidentiality requirements under HIPAA, CMIA, the Privacy Act of 1974 and other patient protection and privacy laws; and establish and maintain effective working relations with co-workers and other County departments.

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Required qualifications for this position:

A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or registered nursing program

AND

one (1) year of responsible nursing experience, preferably including experience working directly with mental health or behavioral clients and/or psychiatry or tele-psychiatry and possession of a current Registered Nurse license issued by the State of California.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Possession of a valid license as a Registered Nurse issued by the California State Board of Registered Nursing.

Must possess a valid driver's license at time of application and a valid California Driver's License by the time of appointment. The valid California Driver's License must be maintained throughout employment.

All County of Plumas employees are designated Disaster Service Workers through state law (California Government Code Section 3100-3109). Employment with Plumas County requires the affirmation of a loyalty oath to this effect. Employees are required to complete all Disaster Service Work related training as assigned, and to return to work as ordered in the event of an emergency.

