

CONSULTANT PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE (MENTAL HYGIENE)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under the general supervision of the Assistant Commissioner of Health for Nursing Services this position is responsible for providing consultation to administrators, professional and ancillary personnel in the Home Health Agency and Community Health Services in the Health Department, the Child Health Assurance Program, and to the staff of other community agencies; helps coordinate the mental health services of these institutions and agencies as they relate to the activities of the Health Department. This position is also responsible for serving as a Mental Health Specialist providing direct care to patients and families. Direct supervision is exercised over one public health nurse assigned to the psychiatric unit at Westchester County Medical Center.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative only)

Confers with administrators, directs, physicians and nurses in developing conducting and evaluating mental health programs of the Home Health Agency and Community Health services in the Health Department;

Coordinates Mental Health services within the Health Department and coordinates these services with mental health program provided by community agencies;

Furnishes mental health expertise to the public health nursing staff through individual conferences on emotional and psychiatric problems of families they are serving;

Promotes and assists with the development of preventive mental health services in child health clinics, pre-natal clinics, family planning clinics, and other specialty services;

Acts as consultant to the Child Health Assurance Program;

Provides direct mental health care to patients and families in clinics and in the home;

Establishes and maintains liaison with community agencies and institutions concerned with major health problems having significant mental health aspects such as mental retardation, alcoholism, drug abuse, and geriatrics;

Serves as a consultant to the staff of other social and community agencies to interpret the general functions of the mental health services of the Health Department;

Directs and advises the public health nurse assigned to the psychiatric unit at Westchester County Medical Center;

Plans, organizes and conducts in-service education in mental health for the Home Health Agency staff;

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Conducts an on-going program of orientation for staff on the mental health specialty;

Consults with professional organizations, schools of nursing and other related institutions in order to promote the inclusion of the mental health specialty in nursing education;

Collaborates with other agencies and state organizations in planning, integrating, and coordinating services to provide continuity of mental health care to patients.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Thorough knowledge of the fields of public health nursing and psychiatric nursing; comprehensive knowledge of the principles and practices of current mental health programs; good knowledge of the relationship between physical and mental health, and the ability to teach that relationship; good knowledge of the emotional elements affecting human behavior; good knowledge of existing state and federal mental health programs; ability to provide expert mental health care to patients; ability to establish good working relationships, inspire confidence and secure the cooperation of others; tact; diplomacy; good judgment; initiative; emotional stability; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: A Bachelor's degree* in Nursing and a Master's degree* in Nursing or a related Nursing field which must have included 30 credit hours in public health nursing and in addition four years of public health nursing experience, three of which must have been in the field of mental health as an administrator, consultant, supervisor or teacher.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Must be licensed as a registered professional nurse in New York State, or be eligible for such license, and must obtain approval of qualification as a Public Health Nurse for Supervision by the New York State Public Health Council.

*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 Department of Education as a post-secondary, degree-granting institution.