COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH NURSE

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The work involves responsibility for providing skilled psychiatric nursing care to clinic patients to aid in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of mental illness. 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 therapy caseload for assigned clients. Work is performed under general supervision of a Supervising Social Worker with wide latitude allowed for the exercise of independent judgment in performing nursing duties. Supervision is not generally a function of this position. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Provides professional psychiatric nursing service as a member of a multi-disciplinary psychiatric treatment team;
Assesses and identifies patient nursing care needs and prepares and carries out a nursing care plan;
Participates in the intake, screening, and diagnostic evaluation of clinic patients and/or their family members;
Visits patients' homes to identify factors in the social, psychological and physical environment which may contribute to the disability;
May refer clients to other agencies for a variety of needed services;
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 offices to understand and/or overcome clients' medical and psychological problems;
Advises the family of methods of dealing with or correcting emergency situations and on the availability of medical, social and housing facilities for the patient;
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;
Assists in community mental health education, consultation, and public relations activities;
Provides in-service psychiatric nursing education, orientation and consultation to staff and other community agencies;
Attends courses and performs independent study and reading to further professional growth;
Compiles and maintains a variety of records, reports and statistical information.

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 or emotional problems;

Good knowledge of community organizations and resources available
     for the mentally ill;
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 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;
Ability to perform close, detail work involving considerable visual
     effort and strain;
Skill in the application of current nursing procedures and
     techniques of patient care;
Empathy for persons with emotional or mental health problems;
Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

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 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)   Completion of 30 credit hours beyond a basic nursing program
     in any combination of nursing, psychology, social work,
     biology, or closely related fields and three years of
     experience as defined in B) above; OR

D)   Any equivalent combination of training and experience as
     defined by the limits of A), B) and C) above.

NOTE: Candidates filing under option C) must submit a list of
courses specifying the school attended, semester and course number,
name and credits with their applications.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Possession of a license and current
registration to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse.