



**CAYUGA
COUNTY**

F:\Civil\Jobsp\Behavioral
Health Care Nurse



An Equal Opportunity - Affirmative Action Employer

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

TITLE:	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE NURSE
JURISDICTIONAL CLASS:	COMPETITIVE
CIVIL DIVISION:	CAYUGA COUNTY
ADOPTION: CSM	03/21/2001
REVISED: CSM	12/8/04, 1/13/10

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:

This position involves responsibility for providing psychiatric nursing services as a member of an interdisciplinary treatment team for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled in the Cayuga County Community Mental Health Center and Sheriff's Custody Division. The incumbent provides skilled psychiatric nursing care to clients and inmates. The incumbent also provides health-related information to the clients regarding medications, mental illness, developmental disabilities and hazardous behavior. The work is performed under the general supervision of a supervisor, facility administrator or designee. Supervision is not a function of this position. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative only)

- Provides nursing care as a member of a psychiatric and medical interdisciplinary treatment team involving prescribed treatments to mental health clients;
- Participates in the initial screening assessment and diagnostic evaluation of clients being considered for admission to services;
- Assesses and identifies patient nursing care needs and prepares and carries out a nursing care plan;
- Participates in doing mental health and suicidal assessments;
- Intervenes in mental health crisis situations and administers emergency treatment;
- Participates with the treatment team in the development, implementation, evaluation, and revision of an individual service plan for clients with mental illness and developmental disabilities;
- Administers prescribed medications by the appropriate route and instructs clients and other staff as needed in the possible side effects;
- Assesses and evaluates clients' psychological and behavioral health condition for referral to physician;
- Orders supplies and medications as prescribed;
- Maintains medication and medical tool inventories in accordance with legal and departmental mandates;
- Compiles and maintains a variety of records, reports and statistical information relevant to patient care;
- Completes incident reports on events within the scheduled shift;
- May participate in a variety of activities involving 24-hour care such as client drug screening, drawing blood for use in laboratory testing, etc.;
- Participates in team case conferences with other members of the psychiatric interdisciplinary treatment team;
- Performs other related duties as needed or assigned.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES, & PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of current professional nursing techniques and practices;
Good knowledge of current trends and theories in the nursing care and treatment of patients with mental or developmental problems;
Good knowledge of medications and drugs used to treat mentally ill or developmentally disabled patients including their physical and psychological effects and adverse reactions;
Working knowledge of the signs and symptoms and treatment of mental illness;
Working knowledge of human behavior in relation to facility's clients;
Ability to work effectively in a security environment, following basic security routines, procedures and policies;
Ability to develop and implement a nursing care plan;
Ability to understand and follow technical oral and written instructions;
Ability to give support, comfort and reassurance to the patients;
Ability to prepare and maintain records and reports;
Ability to work various shifts during a 24-hour day and work overtime as required;
Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: EITHER:

- (A) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered four year college with a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing and one year of satisfactory public health psychiatric nursing experience OR
- (B) Completion of a course of study approved by the NYS Education Department as qualifying for Registered Professional Nurse and three years of satisfactory public health nursing experience, two of which shall have been in psychiatric nursing .

NOTE: Nursing experience in a hospital, doctor's office, nursing home, or other clinical setting is not qualifying in (a) and (b) above for the psychiatric nursing experience unless the experience was specifically in a psychiatric program.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Licensure and current registration as a Registered Professional Nurse in New York State.