

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES
CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST II

POSITION CODE: 26925
Effective: 06/01/2015

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF WORK:

Under direction, performs experienced professional rehabilitative activities in applying the principles and techniques of behavioral science to the observation, development and/or treatment of persons with mental illness or intellectual disabilities; functions as an experienced member of a treatment team in carrying out a variety of therapeutic activities in a facility-based or community setting; provides guidance and direction to less experienced Mental Health Specialists.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK:

1. Serves as a skilled and mature member of a treatment team engaged in the analysis and evaluation of service recipients, and the development and implementation of appropriate rehabilitative programs.
2. Interviews and evaluates the treatment needs of assigned recipients, and formulates and recommends appropriate treatment and development programs.
3. Leads and participates in individual and group therapy programs; observes and evaluates recipients' response to programs and makes recommendations to supervisor and other team members for changes in activities and approaches.
4. Discusses recipients' problems and needs with family members, friends and representatives from community organizations in order to develop further insight into recipients' problems and to develop effective aftercare services; works with individual recipients in developing plans for returning to the community; follows up with service recipients residing in the community to evaluate their adjustment and assure that proper services are provided.
5. Applies experienced level skills and techniques in working with individual psychiatric patients in order to promote their psychological and social competency, and with patients with intellectual disabilities in fostering their development.
6. Assists in the development of overall relations with the community; gains knowledge of community needs and resources and assists in coordinating the institution's activities with community programs.

MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST II (Continued)

7. Provides guidance and direction to less experienced Mental Health Specialists.
8. Participates in unit meetings and makes recommendations regarding individual recipients and overall unit programs.
9. Prepares and maintains required records.
10. Performs other duties as required or assigned which are reasonably within the scope of the duties enumerated above.

DESIRABLE REQUIREMENTS:

Education and Experience

Requires knowledge, skill and mental development equivalent to (1) a master's degree in one of the behavioral sciences and successful completion of a comprehensive training program at the Mental Health Specialist Trainee level or (2) one year of professional experience in, or applicable to, the provision of therapeutic patient services for persons with mental illness or intellectual disabilities and successful completion of an approved training program.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Requires extensive knowledge of the causes, nature and treatment of mental illness or intellectual disabilities and therapeutic methods, principles and practices.

Requires extensive knowledge of Human Services rules and established patient treatment and development programs.

Requires ability to apply communication skills, advanced or a wide variety of therapeutic methods and techniques and the concepts and principles of behavioral science to the provision of therapeutic patient services relative to the observation, treatment and rehabilitation of persons with mental illness or intellectual disabilities.

Requires ability to assess patient needs and formulate appropriate and effective treatment and rehabilitative programs.

Requires ability to provide training, leadership and guidance to subordinate professional and nonprofessional staff members.

In addition to English verbal and written skills, candidates may be required to translate, speak and write a foreign language at a colloquial skill level. Some positions may require manual communication skills.