



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REGISTERED NURSE I/II

DEFINITION: To provide prevention, early intervention, medication reconciliation and assistance, and related mental health and health education and nursing support to Behavioral Health consumers and their caregivers; assist with quality assurance and case management functions; and other related duties as assigned.

ESSENTIAL JOB DUTIES: Under the administrative direction of the Behavioral Health Director or designee and under the clinical direction of the County Psychiatrist or designated physician, performs an array of nursing functions for persons with mental illness and/or addiction issues and related health conditions. These duties may include in-home and clinic-based observation and assessment of client's behavioral health and physical health conditions; preparation and administration of psychotropic medications under the direction of the physician to include both routine and specialized treatments, such as injections; analysis and tracking of treatment and medication responses and outcomes; and participation in interdisciplinary treatment team meetings to plan consumer care. A portion of these duties will be performed while working closely with programs offering services to older adults to identify persons at-risk of/or evidencing mental illness or emotional disturbance and to provide community outreach, support, training and home-based services to the older adult population and their care givers. A portion of these duties may also include working closely with physical health care providers to ensure coordination of care and teaching of self-management skills to clients. Duties will

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also include participation in quality assurance activities; timely documentation of client's behavior; work with psychiatrist and other team members in evaluating consumer's immediate life situation, relevant past events, and health care issues or to recommend and implement treatment plans; provision of education regarding medication and medical aspects of treatment to clients and client care givers; participation as part of mental health after hours emergency response; and other related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Nurse I: This is the entry and first working level in a behavioral health setting. Incumbents initially work under closer supervision while performing duties and will participate in the after-hours on-call rotation as assigned and in coordination with more experienced staff.

Nurse II: This is the journey level of the Behavioral Health Registered Nurse series. Incumbents working at this level receive more limited supervision within a broad framework of policies and procedures, and may be assigned more complex duties for which guidelines have been established. The Behavioral Health Registered Nurse II will also participate in the after-hours emergency on-call rotation as assigned.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Education and Experience:

Nurse I – Must possess a valid California Registered Nurse License. Preference will be given to candidates who have had experience working with individuals with a behavioral health condition.

Nurse II – Must possess a valid California Registered Nurse License AND have at least two years of experience working in psychiatric or mental health clinic setting.

Knowledge of: Basic problems and needs of individuals with mental illness and substance abuse issues; medical terminology; general community nursing procedures and pharmacology; documentation procedures; sterile and aseptic techniques; and fundamentals of patient behavior.

Ability to: Learn and utilize principles and practices of community behavioral health nursing to communicate with persons with mental illness and/or addiction, and their families; administer prescribed treatments and medication; learn community resources and support; assess difficult situations and take effective course of action; understand and follow oral and written instructions; keep accurate records; function effectively as part of a multidisciplinary team; feel comfortable providing outreach in a variety of settings and wellness education to people with behavioral health problems, including older adults and people living with complex health conditions. Must have ability to produce written documentation in an electronic health record. Must be able to sit, stand, walk, twist, climb and descend stairs, and lift and carry up to 30 pounds. Consistent attendance is an essential function of the position.

Special requirements: Incumbents must possess and maintain a valid California Registered Nurse License during the term of employment. Will be required to submit to yearly tuberculosis test. Must possess or obtain within six months of employment a valid First Aid and CPR certification and maintain during term of employment. Must possess a valid operator's license issued by the State Department of Motor Vehicles.