



Job Code: 2057

Grade: 17

HCWR: N

Job Title

Activities Therapist II

Department

Behavioral Health Authority

Job Summary

Under the supervision the Activities Therapist directs, coordinates, and develops activity programs for the purpose of occupational and expressive arts therapy. Assist patients in sessions of activity and expressive arts. Participates as a member of the multidisciplinary team. Performs related duties as assigned.

Typical Duties

- Assesses the patient's social and emotional needs as part of the overall evaluation and implementation of a therapy program.
- Uses professional judgment and creativity in presenting several alternatives or innovative solutions to problems encountered in activity therapy.
- Observes, supervises and assists patients working on activities that require the use of pointed or sharp tools or instruments; tracks all tools and instruments used to ensure patient safety.
- Respects the confidentiality of patient records and uses complete discretion when discussing patient matters with clinical and correctional staff.
- Receives and orientates new patients to the activity and expressive arts programming.
- Determines which activities should be carried out by the various patients according to the patient's limitations and abilities to develop appropriate treatment plan.
- Documents patient progress and behavior while engaged in activities in the clinical record.
- Attends and participates as a multidisciplinary staff member at patient clinical staffing.
- Advises appropriate clinical personnel of situations requiring follow-up attention, i.e. suicidal issues.
- Orients and provides oversight of non-clinical staff including Recovery Coaches and Peer Advocates. Maintains control of inventory and equipment; orders and dispenses activity supplies.
- Checks supplies and counts sharps if utilized during activity session, also includes which supplies need to be repaired and replaced.
- Presents staff development and in-service staff training to support the Expressive Arts Therapy Program with non-clinical staff.
- Prepares materials for patient activities including film showings, games, music therapy, reading, selfcare/ home management training, and sensory integration techniques.
- Interviews and evaluates patients for the purpose of assignment to activity groups.
- Records, compiles and prepares various reports on monthly statistics of patient activities.
- Maintains good public relations with associated disciplines, including development and implementation of educational staff in-service programs.
- Invites associated staff to visit and experience expressive therapy groups to promote understanding and cooperation between disciplines.
- Communicates with Community Stabilization and Triage Center staff any challenges, or concerns encountered with patients.



Typical Duties

- Reviews competencies of any students that comes into Program under Therapists Supervision.
- Supervises Interns in Master's degree programs seeking degree in same profession as activity or occupational therapy program staff.
- Leads and/or co-leads groups with psychology interns, externs, and other clinical staff.
- Adheres to general orders of Cook County Department of Corrections, policies and procedures of Cermak Health Services and policies of Cook County Government.

Minimum Qualifications

- Master's degree in Expressive Therapy, Recreational Therapy, or Occupational Therapy from an accredited college or university
- Registered, Licensed and/or Board Certified with the American Art Therapy Association or related organization

Preferred Qualifications

- Prior experience with patients diagnosed with severe mental health disorder or substance use disorder.
- Bilingual
- Prior Inpatient Experience or Specialized Program dealing with Special Populations.

Knowledge, Skills, Abilities and Other Characteristics

- Knowledge of the departments policies and procedures of the Expressive Arts Therapy or Occupational Therapy program.
- Knowledge of psychiatric diagnoses and treatment modalities.
- Knowledge of Substance Use Disorders and treatment modalities
- Skill in the use of arts and crafts, paints, selfcare management, food prep, etc.
- Demonstrate skills at innovative program development strategies and assumes responsibility a self-directed professional for ongoing program development.
- Possess good verbal and written communication skills, ability to document and report clearly and concisely.
- Ability to communicate effectively with a wide variety of clinical staff.
- Ability to use time effectively.
- Ability to work without direct supervision.
- Ability to communicate, motivate, and work with patients who demonstrates irritability or poor impulse control, and to help support and develop intact areas of functioning skills and talents.
- Ability to establish a productive rapport while working with a wide variety of mentally ill and or substance abuse patients.
- Ability to organize and achieve quality performance in clinical group leadership skills.
- Ability to maintain safety and security of supplies by checking and counting all tools, supplies and materials in use and stored and lock supplies after use.
- Demonstrates an awareness and concern for patient safety and security matters.



Physical and Environmental Demands

This position is functioning within a healthcare environment. The incumbent is responsible for adherence to all hospital and department specific safety requirements. This includes but is not limited to the following policies and procedures: complying with Personal Protective Equipment requirements, hand washing and sanitizing practices, complying with department specific engineering and work practice controls and any other work area safety precautions as specified by hospital wide policy and departmental procedures.

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by people assigned to this classification. They are not intended to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required of the personnel so classified.

For purposes of the American with Disabilities Act, “Typical Duties” are essential job functions.