

RECREATIONAL THERAPIST

DEFINITION: Under general supervision, performs work of considerable difficulty in planning, coordinating and supervising recreational activities in physical, social and cultural programs within a residential treatment center, chapters, schools and communities; performs related work as assigned.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS: This list is ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY and is not a comprehensive listing of all functions and tasks performed by incumbents of this class.

TASKS:

Develops, organizes and administers therapeutic treatment utilizing a variety of therapeutic recreation modalities to individual patients with physical, social, emotional, cognitive and psychological dysfunctions; develops and implements treatment plans for patients to restore and rehabilitate in order to improve functioning and independence as well as to reduce or eliminate the effects of illness or disability; plans and coordinates individual and group patient recreational activities with community, resources and services; adapts, modifies and adjusts recreation techniques and develops new approaches as necessary to ensure the realization of patient treatment goals.

Serves as a member of the multidisciplinary team on each client, for the purpose of providing total health care delivery to the patient and coordinating treatment to effect maximum rehabilitation potential; provides aftercare planning and follow-ups; maintains appropriate clinical records regarding diagnosis, treatment and summary of client's progress; conducts therapy sessions with individuals and groups in accordance with treatment plans and specific methodologies and techniques; identifies treatment modalities for their ability to produce predetermined goals such as increased muscle strength and coordination, sensory motor integration and/or increased awareness of and ability to cope with one's surroundings and interpersonal relationships.

Regulates use of gym, weight room and all recreational activities; attends client/staffing meetings, participates in discussions and problem solving processes; evaluates and records an individual's response to therapy and advises the physician and/or treatment team on progress; alters approach to, or activities of individual to better reach the goals as determined; conducts and participates in in-service training and staff development.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS:

Knowledge of principles, practices and techniques of recreational therapy.

Knowledge of methods used to accomplish therapeutic goals through recreational programs.

Knowledge of modification techniques used to adapt activities to individual needs.

Knowledge of Navajo culture and its influence on the daily lives of the children and family.

Knowledge of the therapeutic effects of exercise.

Skill in applying recreational therapy techniques.

Skill in oral and written communication.

Skill in interpersonal relationships as they relate to the work unit.

Skill in analyzing situation accurately and taking effective action.

Skill in explaining and demonstrating therapeutic recreation/activities to clients, primary care givers and other interested persons.

Skill in establishing and maintaining effective working relationships.

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PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT: Work involves interaction with clients to provide therapy. Frequently encounters stressful situations in client contact.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A Bachelor's degree in Recreational Therapy or a closely related field; and three (3) years recreational leadership experience.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- A Master's degree in Recreational Therapy or a closely related field.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Possess a license as a Recreational Therapist by the State of Arizona or in assigned state.
- A current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certificate.
- A favorable background investigation and physical examination.

Depending upon the needs of the Nation, some incumbents of the class may be required to demonstrate fluency in both the Navajo and English languages as a condition of employment.