

## **RECREATION THERAPIST**

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** The work involves responsibility for organizing and providing recreation programs in accordance with clients' needs, capabilities and interests in order to effect improvement in the clients' physical, mental and social well-being. The incumbent also provides supportive individual recreation therapy in accordance with the treatment plan. General supervision is received from the Mental Health Program Coordinator. Performs related work as required.

### **TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

Participates in the intake and screening of new patients, evaluating and diagnosing the patient and problems;  
Participates as a team member in the development of treatment plans;  
Recommends recreation services, activities and programs in accordance with treatment plans and clients' interests and needs;  
Provides recreation programs for individuals and groups of clients;  
Stimulates and maintains participant interest in appropriate recreation activities;  
Acts as liaison with community agencies;  
Maintains case records and other data in accordance with department policy;  
Provides supportive individual recreation therapy;

### **FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Thorough knowledge of the methods, procedures and objectives of recreation services;  
Thorough knowledge of recreational activities;  
Good knowledge of the principles and practices of therapeutic recreation in recreation in mental health and retardation settings;  
Good knowledge of community recreational services and resources;  
Good knowledge of the principles and techniques of recreation therapy;  
Diagnostic and assessment skills;  
Ability to develop and implement recreational programs to meet clients needs and interests;  
Ability to stimulate the interest of clients in recreational activities;  
Ability to direct individual and group activities;  
Ability to organize work effectively;  
Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing;  
Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with people;

Resourcefulness;  
Tact;  
Initiative;  
Good judgement;  
Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

- A) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a bachelors degree in recreation or closely related field; OR
- B) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a bachelors degree and one year of experience working with mentally ill or mentally/developmentally disabled clients in a community setting; OR
- C) An equivalent combination of training and experience and defined by the limits of A) and B) above.

Note: Degrees in Physical Education are not acceptable for this position.