

RECREATION THERAPIST

KIND OF WORK

Professional recreation therapy work.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

Under general supervision, an employee in this class assesses recreational and leisure needs of clients and develops therapeutic recreation and leisure services to address those needs. Performs related work as required.

Positions in this classification differ from Recreation Therapist, Senior positions in that they are not viewed as experts related to a certain disability group, are not assigned on-going campus wide responsibility, and are not independently in charge of a major campus facility.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)

Develop, implement and evaluate therapeutic recreation and leisure programs for clients to address their social, emotional and physical needs; promote client independence and teach clients constructive use of their leisure time through goal planning; scheduling and promoting daily activities; working with other facility departments and divisions and following professional standards of conduct.

Assess client needs to determine appropriate treatment plan by interviewing clients and their families, developing and administering assessment tools; by direct observation of client behavior and interaction and by reviewing client records.

Develop and provide community orientation to assist clients in integration back into the community and to educate the community about clients by hosting special events; integrating use of community facilities into programming; providing normal affordable leisure activities for clients; developing a community resources file; speaking before community groups; training facility staff in how to provide community orientation; developing and posting activity schedules and working with the volunteer services staff to bring community groups into the facility.

Plan, develop, implement and oversee special events to provide normalization for clients, to provide a break from daily routines, to celebrate special events and to enhance community relations by scheduling events; arranging transportation, meals, medications, necessary staff and equipment; by securing sponsors and community support, by scheduling entertainment and by making reservations.

Escort clients to activities off the facility grounds to teach them alternative leisure interests and appropriate social skills, to allow them to participate in community events and to provide them an opportunity to learn to function within the community by using private and public transportation and community resources (e.g., bowling alley, swimming pool, playground); assisting clients to choose appropriate apparel and equipment; making reservations and arranging for additional staff support.

Ensure client safety and health so that clients enjoy positive leisure experiences and programming conforms to appropriate standards and regulations by proposing and complying with facility policies and procedures; assuring that staff assisting with therapeutic leisure activities have proper credentials; orienting staff to applicable policies and procedures; having available and properly using safety equipment; being aware of client medication needs; and knowing and following safety procedures.

Supervise work program participants so that vocational training goals are achieved by monitoring daily work assignments.

Seek and manage funds to produce therapeutic leisure programs and stay within budgetary constraints by choosing financially affordable activities; estimating the costs of events; submitting budget requests; soliciting funds from outside sources; arranging fund raising events; utilizing money from client accounts and teaching money-management courses to clients.

Participate as a member of a multi-disciplinary team to assess and address client needs in a consistent cross-disciplinary manner, provide insight into the social and leisure interactions of clients, and to assist in the client's re-admission to the community by interviewing and observing clients; attending meetings; providing input relative to therapeutic recreational and leisure treatment and documenting client participation and progress.

Develop quality assurance criteria to measure the program effectiveness, interpret data, implement program improvements and ensure compliance with applicable regulations and standards by utilizing a monitoring and evaluation plan; determining what should be monitored; employing appropriate monitoring, evaluation and data analysis techniques; meeting with peers and effecting changes or adaptations in programs.

Write progress notes, reports and assessments to chart observations of clients and their progress toward program goals, monitor client activities, and conform with applicable standards and regulations by completing forms; understanding and conforming to regulatory mandates and conferring with other staff.

Train direct care staff in therapeutic leisure and recreation therapy techniques to ensure the safety of and positive experience for clients, to assure staff understand the role of therapeutic recreation and leisure activities in a client treatment program, to ensure program consistency and to prevent and ensure appropriate management of crisis situations by providing job coaching, on-the-job training, department orientation, classroom training and small group work.

Direct the work of paraprofessional and professional staff, volunteers, students and interns to assure programs are effective, assigned tasks are completed and students and interns receive a learning experience by: developing and posting daily schedules; assigning work; providing clinical supervision during activities; through team building activities; by selecting and evaluating students and interns and by providing input to performance appraisals of paraprofessional staff.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

Therapeutic recreational and leisure needs assessment principles and methods sufficient to permit the development of effective treatment plans.

Therapeutic recreational principles and practices sufficient to meet the needs of a wide range of residents.

Health and physical requirements sufficient to protect residents during the conduct of recreation and leisure activities.

Facility treatment plan standards and requirements to ensure that treatment recommendations meet requirements for implementation.

Ability to:

Provide guidance to other staff in implementing recreational plans to ensure a high level of active participation by residents.

Participate as a team member in planning treatment programs.

Design and write recreational treatment plans, and schedules.

Design data collection systems to serve as a basis for evaluating program effectiveness.

Communicate effectively orally and in writing.

Est.: 3/81
Rev.: 2/93

T.C.:
Former Title(s):