

BEHAVIORAL PSYCHOLOGIST

KIND OF WORK

Professional behavioral psychology work.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

Under general supervision, administers and interprets psychological assessments and conducts individualized behavior therapy for residents with severe behavioral disorders; trains program implementation staff on behavioral programming; and advises community providers on follow-up services for discharged residents. Performs related work as required.

A Behavioral Psychologist will have knowledge of psychological theory and principles obtained through a Master's degree in Psychology. Problem solving is guided by technical supervisory direction, by the principles and standards of the practice of psychology and by a facility's policies and procedures.

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

Assesses/evaluates residents to determine their behavioral, mental and emotional status. This is achieved by reviewing clinical histories, observing and interviewing residents, and administering assessment/evaluation instruments.

Interprets assessment results and advises treatment team members on psychological issues in addressing the treatment needs of residents/clients so that their needs are identified and programming is written. This is accomplished by instructing the treatment team in psychological principles of observation, measurement, and program development.

Designs, plans and conducts individual behavior therapy to restore or maintain resident's/client's level of functioning. This is accomplished by observing and measuring behaviors, and implementing behavior programming to modify or extinguish maladaptive behaviors.

Reviews behavioral programs written by program staff to ensure the reduction of inappropriate behaviors through the use of operant learning principles. This is accomplished by reviewing the program design to ensure that it focuses on the issues, that it conforms to policies and guidelines, that parallel companion programs have been written, and that learning of new maladaptive behaviors is minimized or considered and addressed.

Trains program implementation staff in the application of psychological and behavioral principles to maximize the value of treatment and enhance overall programming efforts. This is achieved by: reviewing and critiquing proposed evaluations and therapy recommendations, suggesting informational resources, and offering alternative treatment options.

Consults with providers about community follow-up services for discharged residents/clients from the unit to ensure placement success. This is achieved by: assessing behavioral problems and advising community personnel on appropriate solutions.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

Psychological tests and assessments and their interpretation sufficient to develop information to serve as a valid basis for recommending treatment plans and therapies.

Operant learning principles and applied behavioral modification principles sufficient to permit the development and implementation of effective treatment programs.

Crisis intervention principles sufficient to be able to respond to clients/residents and to guide others.

Treatment/therapy methods sufficient to recommend and implement treatment plans and methods.

Ability to:

Provide technical direction to other employees so that programs are implemented as planned.

Devise systems of data collection to insure that problems are identified and described in behavioral terms.

Prepare clear, concise reports so that issues are understood correctly by the parties to the treatment process.

Est.: 3/87
Rev.:

T.C.:
Former Title(s):