

Recreation Therapist, Sr.

I. KIND AND LEVEL OF WORK

Under general supervision, an employee in this class performs second-level advanced professional therapeutic recreation services work including the development, implementation and evaluation of therapeutic recreation programs. The Recreation Therapist, Sr. acts as the therapeutic recreation and leisure expert providing advanced therapeutic recreation services to clients with individualized needs.

At this level, an incumbent provides services for a large and diverse disability group and/or leads major, site-wide recreational and leisure activities. Recreation Therapist, Sr.'s provide lead work, guidance and technical direction to other Recreational Therapists and/or Recreation Program Assistants. Perform related work as required.

II. DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Positions in this class differ from those in the Recreation Therapist class in that positions in the Recreation Therapist level would not be perceived as an expert for a particular disability group, would not be assigned site-wide responsibility, and/or would not provide lead work direction to other Recreation Therapists.

III. EXAMPLES OF WORK/DUTIES

(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 by promoting client independence and teaching clients constructive use of their leisure time through goal planning.
- Provide a comprehensive assessment of recreational and leisure needs of clients and participate as a member of the interdisciplinary team by recommending treatment strategies, reporting progress and integrating services into the client's care plan.
- Facilitate and lead group skill building and individual skill building interventions for clients to assist with management of symptoms and improved functioning level.
- Provide training, guidance and lead work direction to Recreational Therapy professional and para-professional staff to ensure meaningful recreational activities that fulfill clients' therapeutic goals.
- Assign and review recreation plans and activities developed by Recreation Therapists so that residents may participate in meaningful recreational and leisure activities that support treatment goals.
- Develop cooperative relationships with volunteers and service organizations to expand programming opportunities for clients.
- Develop and provide community orientation to assist clients in integration back into the community and to educate the community about clients.

- Measure program effectiveness, interpret data, implement program improvements and ensure compliance with applicable regulations and standards by utilizing a monitoring and evaluation plan.

IV. KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Knowledge

- Therapeutic recreation and leisure needs assessment principles and methods sufficient to permit the development of relevant treatment plans for a diverse population of disability groups.
- Health and physical requirements sufficient to protect the health and safety of residents during the conduct of recreation and leisure activities.
- Facility treatment plan standards and requirements sufficient to ensure that treatment recommendations meet requirements for implementation.

Skills

- Effective communication and writing skills to document observations, chart progress, integrate data and provide interpretation and ideas for client treatment.
- Leadership skills to motivate and provide lead direction to assigned staff in implementing recreational plans to ensure a high level of active participation by residents.
- Problem solving skills to creatively plan and adapt to a variety of program needs and client functioning levels.

Abilities

- Plan, facilitate and evaluate a variety of therapeutic recreation programs for a wide range of difficult and diverse behavioral needs.
- Participate as a team member in planning treatment programs.
- Design and write treatment plans, schedules and recreational guidelines and policies.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION/STATUTORY REFERENCES

N/A

SPECIAL WORK CONDITIONS

Incumbents may work with clients experiencing a wide range of difficult, diverse and at times severe mental health, behavioral and/or disability challenges posing a marginal risk for injury to the client or the employee. Therapeutic treatment and services provided can require an incumbent to spend intermittent periods of time with intense or concentrated levels of sensory attention including but not limited to the clients' emotional, psychological and physical needs. Frequent physical involvement may be necessary to provide recreational services to clients with physical limitations. Occasional exposure to weather conditions may occur when conducting outdoor activities.

REFERENCES

Former title(s): Recreation Therapy Lead (merged 4/2025)

REVISION HISTORY

Established 8/1987

Revised 4/2025