

PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER I (SPANISH SPEAKING)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is entry-level professional psychiatric social work involving responsibility for determining need and providing clinical services to clients. The work is distinguished from that of a Psychiatric Social Worker I in that some of the duties performed in this position require the incumbent to possess speaking and reading ability in Spanish at the fluency level indicated in the Note, below. The work is performed under the direction of a higher-level mental health professional and in accordance with established policies and procedures. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Develops psychiatric history of patients;
Does casework with children, adolescents, adults, couples and/or families presenting difficult problems;
Interviews and observes patients and family;
Maintains case records;
Assists in treatment work through supportive interviews;
Performs treatment under close supervision;
Participates in staff conferences on patients;
Cooperates with relatives of patients and with community agencies on the aftercare of discharged patients.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of modern principles and techniques of casework; good knowledge of the nature and causes of mental maladjustment; good knowledge of the more common forms of psychiatric disturbances; ability to speak, read and understand colloquial Spanish; ability to conduct interviews, analyze data and summarize material for case records; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; ability to establish and maintain cooperative relationships with others.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: A Master's degree in Social Work and possession of a valid license and current registration as a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) or Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) issued by the New York State Department of Education.

NOTE: Incumbents are expected to possess a Level III proficiency in Spanish (as defined by the Local Examinations Division of the State of New York Department of Civil Service) which requires that the incumbent: be able to use the language fluently and accurately on all levels normally pertinent to professional needs; can understand and participate in any conversation within the range of their own personal and professional experience with a high degree of fluency and precision of vocabulary; can respond appropriately even in unfamiliar situations; can handle informal translation from and into the language with occasional use of a dictionary and/or grammar book; can readily read difficult prose intended for the general reader, and specialized materials in their own area of expertise.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Must maintain license and current registration as an LMSW or LCSW issued by the New York State Department of Education throughout the course of employment in this title.