

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA CLASS SPECIFICATION

Class Title: Therapeutic Recreation Specialist

Class Code: 51156

Pay Grade: GH

A. Purpose:

Provides action-oriented treatment using recreation activities as a modality for facilitating change to meet the treatment goals of individual clients/patients.

B. Distinguishing Feature:

Therapeutic Recreation Specialist provides therapeutic treatment through the use of recreation activities for clients/patients of human service institutions.

Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator monitors and coordinates the standards of the therapeutic recreation program.

C. Functions:

(These are examples only; any one position may not include all of the listed examples nor do the listed examples include all functions which may be found in positions of this class.)

1. Prepares, implements, and evaluates recreation therapy treatment programs by using recreation activities as a modality for treatment to ensure clients/patients receive required treatment and develop leisure skills.
2. Conducts assessments to identify leisure strengths and gather information from which to develop treatment plans.
 - a. Conducts assessments to determine client/patient interests, needs, and involvement in leisure activities.
 - b. Prepares individual treatment plans, modifying activities to meet the specific needs of the client/patient.
3. Serves as a member of the treatment team to develop overall treatment goals and plans, and exchange information on client/patient progress.
4. Documents client/patient behavior, progress, and changes through charting and progress notes to monitor client/patient response to treatment and ensure compliance with federal, state, and institution rules and regulations for record keeping.
5. Inspects and provides preventive maintenance on all equipment to ensure the safety of clients/patients and staff.
6. Performs other work as assigned.

D. Reporting Relationships:

The incumbent does not supervise, but may provide work direction of direct care staff or aides who assist during recreational activities.

E. Challenges and Problems:

Challenges include developing interventions that satisfy the clients'/patients' treatment goals. This is difficult because clients/patients must be motivated to participate and activities must be developed to take into account the clients'/patients' leisure strengths and interests. Also challenging is disruptive client/patient behavior and conflicting priorities.

F. Decision-making Authority:

Decisions include client/patient treatment goals, type of activity to use as a treatment modality, dealing with client/patient behavior problems, and information to include in progress notes.

Decisions referred include allocation of money for expenditures and monitoring of standards of therapeutic recreation program.

G. Contact with Others:

Daily contact with treatment team members to discuss client/patient treatment and programming.

H. Working Conditions:

The incumbent works in an institution and has daily contact with clients/patients in a variety of settings, including locked and unlocked treatment areas, activities center, outdoors, and in the community. The incumbent is exposed to unpredictable and aggressive client/patient behavior and heavy lifting.

I. Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Knowledge of:

- recreation therapy methods;
- therapeutic practices in patient care and management;
- assessment principles;
- procedures for documentation.

Ability to:

- direct and instruct groups and individuals participating in structured activities;
- direct and instruct direct care staff on therapy and treatment methods of patients;
- recognize and report behaviors in patients that impede therapy progress;
- plan and implement recreation therapy activities;
- deal appropriately with disruptive or aggressive behavior.