

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NURSE I**

### **Definition:**

Under direct supervision, learns to provide mental health nursing, educational and consultative services, and professional nursing care within the Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and other collaborative agencies.

### **Distinguishing Characteristics**

Behavioral Health Nurse I is the entry-level classification in the Behavioral Health Nurse classification series. Incumbents in this classification are Registered Nurses that receive direct supervision, mental health nursing training and perform routine nursing practices upon employment.

Promotion to Behavioral Health Nurse II is considered on a merit basis upon completion of the minimum qualifications, is subject to the recommendation of the Director of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, and the approval of the Chief Human Resources Officer.

### **Essential Functions:** (in a learning capacity)

- Provides mental health and nursing support for medical personnel as required within the scope of practice.
- Completes nursing assessments per department protocol, makes recommendations and plans services, and implements those plans accordingly within the scope practice.
- Assists higher level Behavioral Nurse staff in responding to crisis situations, making assessments, providing nursing triage and following through with appropriate treatment, which may include voluntary or involuntary hospitalization.
- May consult with and advise public and private agencies who are involved with issues related to mental illness and/or substance use disorders; demonstrates appropriate communication for interacting with mentally ill individuals and/or individuals with substance use disorders.
- May provide resource information to the community and other agencies regarding behavioral health and recovery services and makes referrals to appropriate medical and public health resources.
- Monitors, orders, safely handles, and stores medications and related medical supplies in compliance with department policies and procedures as mandated by law.

- Administers medication under the direction of a physician or psychiatrist; responds to and manages problems with medication within the scope of practice and provides medication support to individuals.
- Completes progress notes and all required documentation and reports.
- May prepare written requests for the authorization of mental health and medication services and provide assistance to pharmacies and physicians when a Treatment Authorization Request for prescribed medication or treatment is required.
- May act as liaison between Kern County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and, primary care physicians, other agencies, community resources, and/or pharmacies during a transition of care for the purpose of medication management and individual stability.
- Attends and may assist with in-service training programs for department staff related to infection control and other topics as assigned; educates the community and nursing students in a proctor program to the involved specialty in mental health services.
- May provide individual, group, and family therapy within the scope of practice.
- Participates in meetings, conferences, and forums.
- Utilizes a personal computer and various software programs.
- May provide intensive case management services for individuals with mental illness, substance use disorders, or co-occurring disorders.
- Attends daily meetings for individuals hospitalized in a psychiatric inpatient facility.
- May perform audits, case reviews, and prepare subsequent summaries and or reports.
- Performs other related duties as required.

**Employment Standards:**

Possession of a valid license as a Registered Nurse (RN) in the State of California.

Possession of a valid California Class C driver's license.

Dependent upon assignment, applicants may be required to pass an extensive background investigation and be fingerprinted. Disqualification for felony, misdemeanor, and traffic offenses will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

**Knowledge of:** Modern nursing principles, methods and procedures; medical terminology, instruments, equipment and clinic routines; the uses and effects of medicines and narcotics; basic computer operation and record keeping.

**Ability to:** Follow written and oral instruction; deal tactfully and sympathetically with patients; communicate effectively both orally and in writing; develop and maintain effective working relationships with medical and professional staff, co-workers, and representatives from community agencies; travel to various locations to provide services; utilize a personal computer and associated software to prepare and maintain concise and complete electronic records and files.

All Kern County employees are designated “Disaster Service Workers” through state and local laws (CA Government Code Sec. 3100-3109 and Ordinance Code Title 2-Administration, Ch. 2.66 Emergency Services). As Disaster Service Workers, all County employees are expected to remain at work, or to report to work as soon as practicable. Following a significant emergency or disaster.