



Pathways to Housing Program

Assertive Community Treatment Team

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Position Description: REGISTERED PSYCHIATRIC NURSE

Summary Profile

Edmonton Pathways Program ends homelessness for people who suffer from complex psychiatric disabilities usually co-occurring with problematic or addiction substance use issues and significant medical and social problems by:

- providing immediate access to permanent independent housing without requiring treatment or sobriety as a precondition for housing;
- providing support and treatment with a philosophy that is founded in the principles of consumer choice and harm reduction;
- providing services which are 'Best Practices' evidence informed and contributing to such evidence to find new and effective approaches to recovery and community integration for this marginalized population.

The Psychiatric Nurse reports to the Team Leader and is a participating member of the inter-disciplinary Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team providing comprehensive wrap-around treatment, support and rehabilitation/recovery services for the clients of the program. It is a team case management model meaning that all the clients are clients of the Program team as a whole. This requires all team members are current with the all the clients, their situation, their recovery program and their treatment goals. All treatment/recovery plans are developed conjointly as a team.

The psychiatric nurse, in addition to this team case management role, is responsible specifically for the management and administration of medication and medical/psychiatric issues in conjunction with the Psychiatrist, Family Physician and Clinical Pharmacist team members. The nurse will be called upon to do psychiatric and medical nursing triage and assessments from which an intervention plan will be developed, communicated and acted upon. The psychiatric nurse will take a lead liaison/coordinating role for the team with acute inpatient services as they are required by clients from time to time. The psychiatric nurse will participate in a lead or conjoint role in developing and delivering program components such as health and wellness education, counseling/skill development for individual and/or groups of clients.

Duties

1. As a fully participating member of the ACT inter-disciplinary team, works with the team and the client to develop a comprehensive strength-based assessment, treatment and rehabilitation/recovery plan that guides interventions and support to ensure effectiveness the client's achievement of recovery goals. **(See attached Role Description applicable to all ACT team members).**
2. Conducts nursing medical and psychiatric assessments as a component part of the comprehensive assessment and treatment/recovery planning process.

3. Develops solid working relationships with allied agencies and services, such as pharmacies, hospitals, etc.
4. Enters and maintains electronic and written records as required. Ensures compliance with FOIP and Health Information Act.
5. Works collaboratively with the team physicians and clinical pharmacist around medication management and administration, being responsible for managing the control systems required. Administers medications as appropriate and provides nursing interventions within the full scope of nursing practice.
6. Performs medical/psychiatric crisis intervention/triage as required for clients and develops, communicates and implements/ensures implementation as required.
7. Leads/co-leads as assigned in developing and implementing required health education and counseling for individuals, families and groups.
8. May lead in communication concerning clients with health related agencies and services such as hospitals, specialist clinics, community professionals as required.
9. Participates in required Program and BMHC related training and meetings as required.
10. May supervise/participate in student placements as required.
11. Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualification Requirements

- Minimum Diploma/Degree in Psychiatric Nursing/Nursing. Eligible for registration in the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses or CARNA.
- Minimum 2 years experience in Mental Health Services community treatment setting preferably in Assertive Community Treatment as well as additional experience in acute psychiatry and crisis intervention/emergency services. Experience in working in addictions, concurrent disorders and Housing First would be an asset.
- Experience in setting up and managing a medication management system (inventory control, safety, accountability).
- Experience in providing outreach services in a 'street/inner city/chronic homelessness' environment or equivalent.
- Successful experience in inter-disciplinary teamwork.
- Experience in community allied service networking
- Knowledge of best practices in working with people with complex co-occurring serious mental illness-addiction-medical issues; of client centered, strength-based recovery treatments/rehabilitation strategies; of the Housing First/Pathway to Housing models; of Harm Reduction philosophy
- Knowledge and practice in integrating cultural contexts into practice and service delivery.
- Experience in developing and delivering health education for individuals and groups
- Communication skills/literacy: written, oral, computer
- Responsible, organized and efficient
- A continuous learner
- Valid driver's license and use of personal car