

**CLASS TITLE: REGISTERED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST  
(MENTAL RETARDATION/  
DISABILITY DETERMINATION)**

**Class Code: 02802700**

**Pay Grade: 30A**

**EO: B**

**CLASS DEFINITION:**

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES:** To provide occupational therapy, evaluation and treatment to meet the special needs of mentally retarded and developmentally disabled clients, particularly with regard to self-help skills and activities of daily living; to consult with and provide assistance to MR/DD education and treatment professionals in various treatment settings; to provide education and support to clients' families and MR/DD support groups; to provide clinical education as part of student programs; and to do related work as required.

**SUPERVISION RECEIVED:** Work assignments are determined by a superior and work is subject to review during process for conformance to therapeutic standards.

**SUPERVISION EXERCISED:** As required, may supervise personnel assigned to assist; may direct clients in therapeutic activity and supervise occupational therapy students and volunteers.

**ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED:**

To provide occupational therapy, evaluation and treatment to mentally retarded and developmentally disabled clients, through written referral from medical staff or other source.

To develop individual client evaluation and treatment programs that address adaptive equipment/environmental concerns, particularly with regard to self-help skills and activities of daily living.

To provide, as necessary, prevocational, perceptual and physical motor evaluations to assess clients' ability to perform occupational therapy activities.

To provide specialized instruction for MR/DD clients in a variety of therapeutic activities such as arts and crafts, games, wood and metal work to decrease disability.

To establish therapeutic groups with predetermined treatment goals.

To develop tasks or work-oriented groups to increase socialization skills of MR/DD clients in various treatment settings.

To encourage basic principles of work simplification and energy conservation with physically disabled clients.

To design and apply, as required, splints or other adaptive devices which will improve individual client function.

To plan independent and group activities for each client in relation to individual needs and interests.

To evaluate occupational therapy modalities which would most appropriately ameliorate disability.

To maintain appropriate client records and treatment plans for each client participating in the occupational therapy program.

To report patient reactions or significant changes in client condition to a superior.

To instruct other health team personnel in the aspects of occupational therapy, with special emphasis on their application to MR/DD clients who exhibit physical dysfunction, maladaptive behavior and severe to profound learning disabilities.

To provide in-service education and review work of activity therapy staff, as required.

To encourage psychological adjustment to disability through application of occupational therapy media, using methods adapted to MR/DD clients.

To observe safety precautions and keep occupational therapy area in good order.

To confer with treatment team and clients to modify treatment goals as necessary.  
To design opportunities for clients which meet their conscious and unconscious needs.  
To arrange groups and social settings in which clients become aware of maladaptive behavior patterns.  
To develop interpersonal social skills among clients.  
To do related work as required.

## **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT:**

**KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND CAPACITIES:** A thorough knowledge of the principles, practices, methods and techniques of occupational therapy; the ability to instruct, stimulate and maintain the interest of mentally retarded and developmentally disabled individuals through therapeutic application of occupational therapy activities; the ability to communicate with tact and diplomacy; the capacity for understanding problems and reactions of the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled; the ability to instruct and direct subordinates in the application of therapeutic techniques; a working knowledge of the special needs and problems of mentally retarded and developmentally disabled clients; and related capacities and abilities.

## **EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE**

**EDUCATION:** Such as may have been gained through: graduation from a program approved by the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association in collaboration with the American Occupational Therapy Association; work experience or education and training specific to the needs of mentally retarded and developmentally disabled clients; and

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:** Must meet established requirements for licensing of Occupational Therapists administered by the Rhode Island Department of Health, and maintain licensure as a condition of continued employment.

Class Created: December 21, 1986

Editorial Review: 3/15/03