

Sample Position Description for VA Center

The Health Science Specialist - Horticultural Therapist uses plants and gardening as their modality to assist patients in fostering a more positive attitude and sense of accomplishment.

The major duties include but are not limited to:

- Develops and implements an interdisciplinary therapeutic gardening program including individual and group interventions to gain interest in horticulture and/or agriculture;
- Maintains program required records, reports, progress notes, files, and statistical data;
- Collaborates as part of the treatment team to help program participants meet specified measurable goals and objectives;
- Leads the development of patient focused gardens, raised beds, and special projects;
- Plans, schedules, grows, harvests, and distributes crops and plant materials from greenhouse and indoor/outdoor growing areas;
- Evaluates participants mental, emotional, social and physical capabilities to determine the needs in horticulture therapy;
- Uses effective interviewing techniques to obtain objective and factual information pertaining to the participants avocational/vocational interests and aptitudes;
- Observes participants during trial assignments to confirm initial assessment;
- Develops treatment plans, and develops intermediate and long-term goals and objectives;
- Plans various activities directed towards achieving such therapeutic objectives as diminishing emotional stress, providing a sense of achievement, channeling energies and interests, aiding physical and mental rehabilitation and promoting successful community reentry;
- Reviews participants progress when introduces new or more challenging activities and adjusts activities accordingly; and,
- Performs all other duties as assigned.